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your English and how to improve it.

# YOUR ENGLISH
## AND
# HOW TO IMPROVE IT

BY

A CANTABRIGIAN

VOLUME I



HELP-BOOK DISTRIBUTORS

GUJRANWALA-INDIA

1935

PRINTED BY
THE LION PRESS
HOSPITAL ROAD, LAHORE
BY
MR. S. A. LATIF, MANAGER

## Publishers' Note to Volume I

To write and speak correctly gives a grace, and gains a favourable attention to what one has to say—Locke.

As English is a living language it always grows and changes. Only those books which keep abreast of the most recent changes in usage are reliable and fit for use by students and others. The publication of the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary, the supplement to the New Oxford English Dictionary, and the latest editions of other standard works (English, American, and Colonial) necessitated such changes in usage as rendered books not relying on them, practically of very little use. This fact led us to place on the market "Your English and How to Improve It" which as far as we are aware is the book that is up-to-date in every respect.

We are offering for sale the first volume of this book. We have kept its price as low as possible, and we feel confident that those who have books on grammar and composition will find it as an indispensable supplement, and that it will serve those who are without them as an excellent substitute. In a word the first volume of this book aims at bringing together in a convenient

form all such information and advice as is of practical importance to the speakers and writers of correct English.

We hope that any one who buys this book will not feel that money spent on it could have been better utilized, and that he will avail himself of the second volume as soon as it is out.

# PREFACE

Though the memorization of the rules of grammar and syntax is useful for those who are desirous of speaking and writing correct English, yet the amount of time and labour necessary for this purpose is by no means encouraging, because grammarians often differ. In addition to a number of very intricate rules there are many exceptions which act as an invincible barrier to those who wish to use English corretly. As college students and others find this subject very dry and tedious, they seldom or never consult books on it. So far books on English composition are concerned they do not deal with all the errors even common to college students. As the best, easiest, and shortest cut to learning correct English lies through consulting a book which is free from the intricacies of formal grammar. and which does not assume much knowledge of it on the part of its readers, so some English and American scholars have written books for persons whose mother tongue is English, but none of them can fully meet the requirements of Indians to whom it is a foreign tongue.

The only purpose in producing "Your English and How to Improve It" is to provide not only

college students but also others with a book which should help them in speaking and writing English correctly. With this end in view the author read a large number of articles, essays, dialogues, letters, and stories written by Indians. Moreover he carefully studied books on English composition for college students in India. In order to ensure the accuracy and up-to-dateness of this book he has in most cases followed the New Oxford English Dictionary, the supplement to it, and the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary. In case of differences of opinion on points on which the aforesaid two works are silent he has accepted the views of other writers of unquestionable authority.

Every teacher of English both in the East and in the West holds that perfect acquaintance with the agreement of the subject with the verb, articles, the order of words, punctuation, the sequence of tenses, and errors (homonyms, colloquialisms, slang, obsolete words, Americanisms, synonyms, and other illiteracies) is essential to a person for speaking and writing English like educated English people. To serve this purpose he has dealt with the preceding topics at such length as their importance in correct speech and writing merits. Though this book treats of most of the errors peculiar to Indians, yet it omits those errors which are rarely or never committed by them. In short, the author

has written this book in such a way as may render itself very attractive to and most suitable for students and others.

The author is much indebted to the works of Dr. C. T. Onions, Messrs. H. W. & F. G. Fowler, Professor H. C. Wyld. Dr. Sweet, Mr. C. C. Whitworth, Dr. Vizetelly, Dr. Fernald, Professor Jesperson, Professor E. A. Cross, Mr. John O'London, and Professor G. P. Krapp, and he maintains that every lover of English should possess them. He also expresses his gratitude to all other authors whose works he read.

Any merit which this book possesses is mainly due to the scholarly works that he has consulted. The author is entirely responsible for any mistakes that may be found in this book, and shall be grateful to those who will point them out to the publishers.

## Terms and abbreviations used in this book.

*Adj.* (adjective).

*Americanism* (a word or phrase either in sense or in origin and meaning confined to the U. S. A.)

*American Spelling* (spelling peculiar to the educated people of the U. S. A.).

*Archaic* (no longer fit for conversation or ordinary prose).

*A. S.* is the abbreviation of Anglo-Saxon.

*Colloq.* is the abbreviation of colloquial.

*Colloquial* (fit for conversation and unfit for elevated prose).

*Colloquialism* (is a word or phrase suitable for conversation and not suitable for elevated prose).

*English spelling* (spelling preferred by the educated people in the British Empire).

*Idiomatic* (in agreement with usage).

*L.* is the abbreviation of Latin.

*Literary* (fit for elevated prose and unfit for conversation).

*N.* (noun).

*Obsolete* (denoting a word or phrase no longer fit for common use).

*Poetic* (peculiar to poetry).

*Slang* (a word or phrase of the conversational type either newly coined or used in a sense or senses not accepted by the majority of the educated English people).

*U. S. or U. S. A.* (the United States of America).

*Unidiomatic* (not agreeing with usage even if grammatically correct).

*V. or Vb.* (verb).

## AGREEMENT OF THE VERB WITH THE SUBJECT.

1. When two or more subjects are joined by *and*, they take a plural verb; as, William *and* Jones are lazy boys, Charles, Richardson, and James are honest.

2. When two singular subjects refer to the same person or thing, they must take a singular verb; as, My only son and heir *is* receiving education in Germany. A great statesman and scientist *is* dead.

3. When two persons are meant, the article precedes each subject; as, *The* author and *the* statesman *have come* here to deliver speeches.

4. When two singular subjects imply one idea, they may take a singular verb; as, Bread and milk *is* his food. The horse and carriage *is* standing under the porch. Slow and steady *wins* the race.

5. When two singular nouns which are synonymous are joined by *and*, they take a singular verb; as, Your dread and fear *is* unfounded.

6 When two or more singular subjects are qualified by *each* or *every*, they take a singular verb; as, Each man, woman, and child *was* taking food. Every professor, lecturer, and student *is bound* to put on an academic dress.

7. If a collective noun is used in a distributive or plural sense, it takes a plural verb; as, The committee *were divided* in opinion. The jury *were* not unanimous.

8. The collective noun, when it is not used in the distributive or plural sense, takes a singular verb; as, The committee *is* unanimous in supporting him.

9. If the plural noun is a proper name for a single object or unit, it takes a singular verb; as, The United States of America *is* the most powerful republic. The Fundamentals of English *is* a good book for teachers.

10. When two or more singular nouns are joined by *either-or, neither-nor,* or *no,* they take a singular verb; as, No pupil or teacher *was* there, Neither you nor I *am* wrong. Either he or I *am* right.

11. If the subjects of different numbers are joined by *or* or *nor*, the verb must be plural and the plural subject must immediately precede it; as, Either William or his sisters *have done* this work. Neither John nor his brothers *serve* their parents.

12. Subjects, when they differ in number or person or in number and person, take the plural verb.

(*a*) If one of the subjects is of the first person, the verb must agree with it in person; as,

You, he, and I *are going* to school. You and I *have finished* our work.

(*b*) When neither of the subjects is of the first person, the verb must agree with the subject of the second person; as, You and he *have done* your best in this respect.

13. Some nouns, though plural in form yet singular in meaning, must have a singular verb; as, News, wages, mathematics, physics, politics, optics, dynamics, and statics.

14. Some nouns, though singular in form yet plural in meaning, can take a plural verb; as, Dozen, cannon, enemy, number, plenty, and variety.

15. When *with, in addition to,* or *as well as* connects a singular subject with a singular or plural subject, it takes a singular verb; as, The king, with his courtiers, *has visited* the zoological gardens.

16. The verb *to be* takes the same case after it as before it; as, It *is* he who killed his brother.

17. If a relative pronoun is the subject of the verb, it should agree with its antecedent in number and person; as, I, who *am* poor, cannot help you. You, who *are* rich, should help me. He, who *is* poor, should be helped. You are one of the best students who *are* reading in this college.

18. When a singular noun is qualified by two adjectives and refers to two separate persons or things, it must take a plural verb; as, The fourth

and the fifth chapter of this book *are* very interesting. The black and the white horse *are* sold.

19. If a singular subject is to be emphasized, it takes a singular verb; as, Not riches, but education *makes* for success.

20. In case the verb precedes the real subject and the sentence begins with *there*, *thine*, or *such*, many writers use the singular verb; as, Thine *is* the kingdom and the power and the glory. Such *was* the learning, tactfulness, and the self-control of the Rt. Hon'ble William Ewart Gladstone during the declaration on Home Rule as merited universal approval. There *is* to be racing and chasing immediately.

*Note*:—If a plural noun immediately follows the verb, the verb must be plural; as, There *were* lectures on political science in this city.

21. If a compound subject consists either of clauses or phrases the verb may be singular or plural; as, To earn a living and to serve the public *is* a difficult task or *are* difficult tasks. That we should earn our living and that we should serve the public *is* a difficult task or *are* difficult tasks.

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## ARTICLE.

*A* or *an*, which is a weakened form of one, is the indefinite article, and *the*, which is a weakened form of that, is the definite article.

**The Indefinite Article.**

It generalizes the noun; as, *A* lion, *a* tiger, *a* cat, a horse, *a* friend, *an* apple, *an* orange, *an* enemy, *a* unicorn, *a* union, *a* unison, *a* one-sided statement, *a* university, *a* European, *a* eulogy.

*A* precedes a common or class noun which does not begin with a vowel sound; as, *A* gentleman, *a* woman, *a* commissioner, *a* secretary, such *a* one, *a* unique.

*An* is used before a noun which begins with a vowel sound; as, *An* owl, *an* ass, *an* evil, *an* honest man, *an* hour, *an* able man, *an* engineer.

2. *A* or *an* precedes an adjective when it qualifies a noun; as, *A* great man, *an* ordinary student.

**Exceptions.**

An adjective, when it is preceded by *so, how, many, too, quite, what, such, as,* takes *a* or *an* after it; as, So wise *a* man; so long *a* river; how big *a* word; many *a* precious stone; too hot *a* potato;

quite *a* number of articles; what *a* fool. I have never seen such *a* fool. He is *as* wise *a* man as his father

*N. B.*—The adjectives, great or good when it precedes *many* takes the indefinite article before it; as, *A* great many people, *a* good many things, *a* great deal.

3. It is used in the sense of one; as, Three feet make *a* yard. 1760 yards make *a* mile. Not *a* drum was heard. Apples are two shillings *a* dozen. Pencils are 5 shillings *a* gross. Socks are one shilling *a* pair. A stitch in time saves nine.

It is equivalent to any for singling out an individual; as, *A* son obeys his father. *A* horse is a useful animal.

4. It is used to convert a proper noun into a common noun; as, *A* Daniel come to judgment He is *a* second Newton.

5. It sometimes means a class; as, *A* cat eats mice. *A* dog eats meat.

**The Definite Article.**

1. It is used with all superlatives except *most* when it is equal to very; as, *The* best boy, *the* cleverest man, *a* most interesting story.

2. It is used to particularize a person or thing already mentioned or a person or thing familiar to the person addressed; as, He is *the* boy whom you

know. I shall go to *the* club. Come into *the* garden.

3. It is used to mean the whole class; as, *The* horse is a useful animal (all horses are useful animals).

4. It is sometimes used to give a common noun the meaning of an abstract noun; as, At last *the* patriot (patriotism) in him forced him to fight.

5. It is used before a noun to give it the force of a superlative; as, *The* head boy (the top—most boy) in the class deserves a prize. *The* verb (The most important word) is the word.

6. It is used as an adverb with comparatives; as, *The* sooner, *the* better; *the* more, *the* merrier; *the* easier, *the* better.

7. It is used instead of a possessive pronoun; as, Take the bull by *the* horns (its horns). I struck him on *the* face (his face).

8. It is used with an adjective to mean a class; as, *The* poor are not always happy. *The* good are not always rich.

9. It is sometimes used with an adjective to give it the meaning of an abstract noun; as, I shall not leave *the* right to pursue *the* expedient.

10. It is used with the names of books when not preceded by an author's name; as, *The* Qoran, *the* Vedas, *the* Bible, *the* Ramayana, *the* Iliad.

*Note*:—When the author's name precedes that of a book, *the* is not used; as, Shakespeare's Hamlet, Homer's Iliad, Balmiki's Ramayana, W. S. Landor's Imaginary Conversations.

11. It precedes those common nouns which are unique of their kind; as, *The* moon, *the* sun, *the* earth, *the* sea, *the* pope, *the* poles, *the* evening star.

12. It precedes the names of newspapers; as, *The* Times of London, *the* Manchester Guardian, *the* Daily News, *the* Pioneer, *the* Chronicle.

13. It precedes adjectives or titles of honour or position; as, *The* Reverend Doctor Temple, *The* Right Hon'ble Mr. Churchill.

14. It precedes the name of a nation; as, *the* English, *the* French, *the* Greeks, *the* Carthagians, *the* Chinese, *the* Japanese.

15. It precedes the titular names which are applicable to certain persons; as, *The* Commander-in-Chief, *the* Archbishop of Canterbury, *the* Lord Mayor of London, *the* Governor General, *the* Head-master, *the* Lord Chancellor, *the* Chancellor of the Exchequer, *the* Prime Minister, *the* Shah, *the* Nizam, *the* Czar, *the* King, *the* Queen, *the* Great Moghal.

16. It precedes a few nouns to indicate in each case the profession or the members of it; as, *The* press, *the* church, *the* navy, *the* army, *the* bar, *the* bench, *the* clergy.

17. It precedes the names of important land-marks in history; as, *The* Great War, *the* Deluge, *the* Middle Ages, *the* Norman Conquest, *the* Crusades, *the* Magna Carta, *the* War of the Roses, *the* Reformation, *the* French Revolution, *the* Hegira, *the* Mutiny (1857), the Christian Era, *the* Bikram Era.

18. It is used to mean the pre-eminence of one man over others; as, He is *the* scientist of our time.

19. It is sometimes used to denote likeness to an eminent person or a celebrated thing; as, Kalidas is *the* Shakespeare of India. Victor Huge is *the* Shakespeare of France.

20. It precedes the names of gulfs, bays, rivers, straits, seas, oceans, groups of Islands, mountain ranges; as, *The* Gulf of Maxico, *the* Persian Gulf, *the* Bay of Biscay, the Bay of Bengal, *the* Thames, *the* Danube, *the* Red Sea, *the* Mediterranean Sea, *the* Indian Ocean, *the* Atlantic Ocean, *the* Andaman Islands, *the* British Isles, *the* Alps, *the* Himalayas.

*Note*:—When a proper noun precedes the names of straits, gulfs, bays, seas, and oceans, it takes no article; as, Palk Strait, Plymouth Bay.

21. It precedes the descriptive names of countries and provinces; as, *The* British Empire, *the* United States, *the* Pelo-Ponnesus, *the* Transvaal, *the* Deccan, *the* Central Provinces, *the* North-West

Frontier Province, *the* United Provinces, *the* Cremia, *the* Carnatic, *the* Punjab.

22. Both or all when it is used with a noun, the definite article never precedes it but always follows it; as, Both *the* cricketers or all *the* cricketers.

23. The verbal noun, when it precedes *of*, takes the definite article; as, *The* starting *of* a sugar factory is under consideration.

24. The names of ships take the definite article; as, *The* "Persia," *The* "Lahore," *The* "Mongolia".

*Note*:—Nevertheless the British Navy and Admiralty in official correspondence omit the definite article with the names of ships.

**Omission of the Article.**

1. No article is used with a common noun when conveying a general notion; as, *Man* is mortal. *Woman* is man's mate. *Ear* has not heard it. *Eye* has not seen it.

2. No article is used with names of diseases, sciences, arts, games and sports; as, Cholera, syphillis, physics, chemistry, biology, painting, cricket, hockey, football, etc.

3. No names of title or profession when they precede a proper noun or are used in apposition to it, take the article; as, King Edward VII; Lord Kitchener; St. Paul; Judge Kenny; George V, King

of England; Bishop Whitehead; C. Smith, baker E. Foster, banker.

4. The names of material nouns do not take an article except when they denote their varieties etc; as, Gold and silver are precious metals. The gold of India and the silver of Peru are well-known in the world.

5. Common nouns when preceded by possessive adjectives, demonstrative pronouns, or indefinite numeral adjectives do not take the article; as, *My* waistcoat, *our* house, *this* lamp, *any* book, *some* pupils.

6. The names of cities, towns, countries, villages, capes, single mountains, single islands take no article; as, London, Milton, France, Germany, Europe, Japan, Cape Bon, Abu, Etna, Sicley, Cuba. The only exceptions to this rule are *the* Isle of Man, *the* Lands End, *the* Cape of Good Hope.

7. The names of persons do not take an article; as, Williams, George, James.

8. The names of days, months, years, and seasons take no article; as, Sunday, January, Leap year, winter.

9. Abstract nouns used in a general sense take no article; as, *Love* is confined to man. *Virtue* is its own reward.

*Note*:—They take an article when they are used as common nouns; as, *The* wisdom of Socrates is

famous. *The* honesty of the English is known throughout the World.

10. The following phrases take no article and should be committed to memory; as, At home, at sea, in hand, in school, at school, to school, in bed, in return, in time, by day, by night, at daybreak, from hand to mouth, from first to last, from top to bottom, at sunrise, at noon, at sunset, for instance, at night, at anchor, at sight, on demand, at ease, under ground, in debt, at interest, on earth, by land, by water, by river, by train, by steamer, by name, on horseback, on foot, by dint of, on deck, to prison, in jail, in jest, in town, in market, at dinner, at table, above ground, to take root, on board ship, on ship, at hand, within reach, to catch fire, to attend court, to take heart, to give battle, to loose heart, to take offence, to send word, to strike root, to give ear, to leave school, to set foot, to lay seige, to keep house.

11. Common nouns, when they are used in the plural number, take no article if it does not particularize them; as, Children are innocent. *The* children of India are innocent.

12. No nominative of address or vocative takes an article; as, Ladies and gentlemen, I have much pleasure in addressing you on this subject. O Mother, I am really sorry for my conduct. Sit down, my boys, and wait for me.

## ORDER OF WORDS.

**Adjective.**

(1) The adjective, when it is single and attributive, immediately precedes the noun that it modifies; as, He is an *eminent* man. He is a *distinguished* scholar.

*Note*:—In poetry the adjective often follows a noun as:—

John Keats was killed off by one critique,
Just as he really promised something *great*,
If not intelligible, without Greek.

(2) Several adjectives, when they modify a noun, generally follow it; as, The scientist, *eminent, polite,* and *truthful,* died yesterday.

(3) If a word or phrase is added to the adjective to explain its meaning, the adjective follows a noun; as, He is a man, *rich* in every respect. A student, *better* than any of his companions, won the prize.

(4) The adjective always follows a noun in the following phrases:—

God *Almighty,* notary *public,* body *politic,* heir *apparent,* time *immemorial,* lord *paramount,* viceroy *elect,* knights *temporal,* theatre *royal,* wealth *untold,* point *blank,* matters *ecclesiastical,* kings *temporal,* things *eternal,* generations *unborn,* procurator *fiscal,* malice *prepense,*

proof *positive,* tartar *emetic,* no honour *due,* church *militant,* church *triumphant,* astronomer *royal,* sum *total,* devil *incarnate,* letters *patent,* heir *male,* darkness *visible,* lords *temporal* and *spiritual,* house *beautiful.*

**Adverb.**

(1) Not, only, even, at least, at all events, for a long time, hardly, scarcely, nearly, almost, never, always precede the word or expression which they qualify; as, He is not honest. I gave him only five pounds. He is not sure *even* of success. You *at least* might have worked for me. I felt *at all events* no worse for the long walk. Professional engagements *for a long time* prevented me from seeing your friends. I *harldy* knew that he was a fool. He can *scarcely* efface a word. *Nearly* everybody whom he meets is a man of position. I can get *almost* any article of dress. He ordered me *never* to see him again.

(2) The adverb should be placed as near as possible to the word or expression that it modifies; as, He *often* visits his friends.

(3) The adverb usually follows an intransitive verb except when it is of time, such as, *often, never, ever, seldom, always, until, sometimes, then, frequently. Examples:*—He *often* sees his friends. *He never* comes here. Nobody *ever* insults me. I *seldom* go home. He *always* comes late. Wait *until* further orders. *Some-*

*times* he eats fish. He *frequently* goes to his friends.

*Note*:—Adverbs of time always follow the verb to be; as, He is *seldom* wrong. He is *always* punctual.

(4) The adverb usually follows the object of the transitive verb; as, He managed the school *skilfully*. I perform my duty *carefully*.

(5) The adverb when it modifies an adjective or another adverb as a rule immediately precedes it; as, He is a *very* good boy.

*Enough* always follows the word that it qualifies; as, It is good *enough* for me.

The use of *only* requires great care. *Only* he gave me a coat (he and nobody else gave me a coat). He *only* gave me a coat (he merely gave me a coat). He gave only me a coat (he gave a coat to me and to nobody else). He gave me *only* a coat (he gave me a coat and nothing else).

(6) The adverb should be placed between the auxiliary and the participle of a verb which is active; as, He has *bitterly* wept.

(7) The adverb is placed between two auxiliaries when the verb is in the active voice; as, He would *gladly* have done this work.

(8) The adverb should be placed after the two auxiliaries if the verb is in the passive voice; as, He would have been *much* pleased to see you. I have been *always* delighted to see you.

(9) The adverb comes between the two

auxiliaries in the passive voice when it modifies the whole sentence; as, He has *usually* been welcomed as a friend.

**Relative Pronoun.**

To avoid ambiguity, the relative pronoun should immediately follow its antecedent; as, He is the man *whom* I have paid a thousand pounds.

**Phrases.**

*A prepositional phrase* should immediately come after the word of which it is an adjunct; as, I was *in my room* when he saw me.

*The modifying phrases* should be as near as possible to what they qualify; as, The man, *waving his handkerchief*, soon disappeared.

When two phrases qualify a subject, the one should precede and the other follow it; as, *Angry with his brother*, he, *seizing a stick*, struck him.

If the main statement is qualified by two clauses, the one should precede and the other should follow it; as, *If the weather is fine*, I shall take a walk, *if nothing untoward prevents me.*

**Correlative Conjunctions.**

Correlative conjunctions should precede the same part of speech.

**Both—and.** Both James and Charles have gone to Germany.

**Not only—but also.** Not only Williams and

James but also their wives are going to London.

**Either—or.** The Spanish crews kept warily abroad their ships, ready either for fight or for flight.

**Neither—nor.** You may look for aid to your cousin; but count *neither* on James *nor* on Williams.

**Not merely—but.** A confession of lack of intelligence by Mr. James *not merely* indicated deliberate self-mortification, *but* was offered as a homage to the mental quality of his visitor.

**Not only—but.** She *not only* went to her aunt *but* spent the night with her.

**Such—as.** There are no *such* politicians *as* you mention.

**The same—as.** This is *the same* book *as* that.

**No sooner—than.** *No sooner* had they gone *than* we arrived.

**Not—but.** A wise doctor ventures *not* to cure diseases, *but* to check them.

**Subject and Object.**

The *subject* of a sentence is placed at the beginning and the *object* at the end; as, *He* saw *me*.

*Note:*—The beginning and the end are the only emphatic positions in a sentence; as, The novel is the most elastic and adaptable medium that the literary artist has discovered.

## PUNCTUATION

It means the right use of points or stops in writing, typing, and printing. *No points* as a rule are used in legal documents and papers. *No point or stop* is necessary when it does not make the meaning clearer.

**Comma ( , ).**

The comma indicates the shortest pause or stop; as, Long before he reached London, the drunken tramp, whom William supposed that he had killed, sat up.

(*a*) To separate a series of more than two words or phrases when the last of them is joined by and or or; as, England, France, Italy, and Japan are supporting the League of Nations. England, France, Italy or Japan is supporting the disarmament scheme of the League of Nations. You act as secretary of the football club, president of the college debating society, and contributor to the press.

(*b*) To separate words and phrases like, in fact, of course, no doubt, therefore, for instance, at length, however, after all, nay, finally, at least, further, fortunately, moreover, economically, in short; as, *In fact*, you have no business to insult me. *In*

*short*, fiction would have us believe not only that love springs into full bloom at first sight, but that marriage usually before dew-fall.

(*c*) To separate an absolute phrase from the rest of the sentence; as, *This being your view,* I cannot support you.

(*d*) To separate a noun or phrase in apposition; as, Judas Iscariot, *one of the twelve apostles,* betrayed Christ. Mr. Williams Ewart Gladstone, the greatest statesman of his time, died in 1897.

(*e*) To show the omission of a word particularly the verb; as, Mr. Williams *gave* me Shakespear's works, but Mr. Johnson, a chair. I *am* a Christian, but you, a Hindu.

(*f*) To separate the nominative of address or vacative from the rest of the sentence; as, *Ladies and gentlemen,* I request you to give me a proper hearing. Boys, attend to whatever I say. *My dear friend*, I am quite well, give ear to my words, *O Lord*, consider my meditation. Return, *O' Lord*, deliver my soul.

(*g*) To separate short co-ordinative clauses; as, I came, I saw, I conquered. Wait on the Lord, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land.

(*h*) To separate those adjectives which are in opposition and which are closely connected; as Though *harmless*, yet *brave*.

(*i*) To separate an adverbial clause when it precedes the main clause; as, *If the two are knit by marriage ties,* the plot thickens. *If I join King's College Cambridge,* I shall study History.

(*i*) To separate a participial phrase from the rest of the sentence; as, The enemy, *having bombarded the town,* continued their march. He, *always willing to help,* agreed to give us the benefit of his knowledge.

(*k*) To separate the Reported Speech from the Reporting Verb in the Direct Narration; as, Christ *said,* "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God." Stevenson *said,* "The first merit which attracts in the pages of a good writer, or the talk of a brilliant conversationalist, is the apt chioce and contrast of the words employed."

(*l*) To separate a non-restrictive clause from the main co-ordinative clause; as, Dr. S. James, *who is a surgeon* as well as a physician, handled the case.

(*m*) To separate a noun clause which as subject or object precedes the verb; as, How we are to do this work, *is* under consideration.

(*n*) To separate each pair of words if they belong to the same class or kind; as, *Men* and *women*, *boys* and *girls*, *teachers* and *pupils*, like simple food.

(*o*) To separate two main clauses of a com-

pound sentence when the subject of the second clause is expressed; as, He opens the door, and *he* immediately enters the shop. The injured man sued the corporation, and *his employer* paid the costs of the suit.

(*p*) To separate three groups of consecutive figures in a number counting from the right; as, 10, 437.

(*q*) To separate words or phrases which check the progress of a sentence; as, Nobody expected, *I remarked*, that they would repair this church. Some persons will tell you, *with an air of the miraculous*, that they recovered although they were given over. The man who said that is, *I believe*, unfair.

(*r*) To separate two or more adverbs or adverbial phrases appearing together; as, *Then*, *at length*, the offenders were sentenced to ten years rigorous imprisonment. *Then*, *suddenly*, as one some times on a journey becomes vividly aware of a large size and blue distance and firm hills beneath his feet, I really hear the chord that we are playing.

(*s*) To separate a long subject, when it opens a sentence, from the verb; as, To be always on the watch, to find fault and to give no praise to honest effort, *shows* an unkind temparament.

(*t*) To separate the adverbial clause which

follows the principal clause is not necessary; as, I do not know when he is coming.

(*u*) To separate the defining adjectival clause is wrong; as, Those are the houses *which Mr. Williams built.* The man *who owns this estate* is now in Australia. But for that blindness *which is inseparable from malice*, what terrible powers of evil would it possess.

(*v*) To separate co-ordinate clauses with different subjects connected by and; as, His grandmother is dead, *and* his grandfather is alive. (And) *Jothan* slept with his fathers, *and* they buried him in the city of David.

(*w*) To separate co-ordinate clauses with the same subject connected by some conjunction other than and; as, *He* stood first in the examination, but had not much time for study. *The rains* descended, but caused no floods. When *the priests* enter into that place, then *they* shall not go out of the holy place into the court, but there shall lay their garments in which place they minister.

**Semi-Colon ( ; )**

The semicolon indicates a pause or stop of greater importance than that implied by the comma; as, There was no infirmity in his conduct over which charity must fling its veil; no taint of selfishness from which purity averts her gaze; no darkness of

intrigue that must be lit up with coloured panegyric; no subterranean passage to be trod in trembling; lest there be stirred the ghost of a buried crime. It is used as follows:—

(1) To separate the co-ordinate clauses of a compound sentence, when they have commas; God made her happy; fellow-citizens honoured her; today we condemn what tomorrow we admire; today we like what tomorrow we dislike; today we laugh at what tomorrow we respect. Precepts are like seeds; they are little things which do much good; if the mind which receives them has a disposition; it must not be doubted that his part contributes to the generation, and adds much to that has been collected.

(2) To separate co-ordinate clauses having different subjects when the conjunction is omitted; as, Men should make solemn and outward expression of it, when they receive His creatures for their support; a service and homage not only due to him but profitable to themselves. The injured man sued the corporation; his employer paid the costs of the suit.

(3) To separate words or clauses ordinarily separable by commas if they are qualified by other clauses or phrases that require commas; as, Wheat is grown in the Punjab, in Sind, and in the United Provinces. Wheat is grown in the Punjab, *where*

*the fields are irrigated from the canals*; in Sind, *where the fields are watered from the Indus*; and in the United Provinces, *where the rainfall is good.*

(4) To separate co-ordinate clauses one of which states a reason; as, You must be sure of yourself before you attempt this; *for*, as the architects of the Middle Ages knew, elaborate ornament may often endanger the effect of the whole work by distracting the attention from the big and true lines it is intended to enrich and display.

(5) To separate clauses which are more loosely connected than those joined by commas but which should not be separated into independent sentences on account of closer connection; as, The rain is falling heavily; the moon is hidden by clouds; the road is full of mud; men and women are running home.

(6) To separate clauses which are connected by some conjunction expressing opposition or alternation; as, I saw him as he was going to school; *otherwise* I should not have been able to find out where he lived. Death is dreadful to the man whose all is extinguished with his life; *but* not to him whose glory never can die.

(7) To separate items or points which are given in a specific from; as, How the skill and intelligence needed for our industries is best recruited; what part the maldistribution of labour

plays in our present economic confusion; these are some of the questions that demand the most careful enquiry. It transforms all things by its vital heat; it turns timidity into fierce courage, and dreadless defiance into tremulous submission; it turns thoughtlessness into foresight, and yet stills all anxiety into calm content; it makes selfishness become self-denial, and gives even to hard vanity the chance of admiring love.

**Colon ( : )**

It indicates a longer pause than that intended by the semicolon. It is used as follows:—

(And) they stood in their place after their manner according to the law of Moses the man of God: the priests sprinkled the blood, which they received of the hand of the Levites.

1. To separate the two clauses of a compound sentence when the second clause explains or amplifies the first clause; as, He is fit for a scholarship: he has topped the list in the Matriculation Examination and has studied many subjects in addition to those prescribed for it.

*N. B*—The coordinate conjunctions, *and*, *but*, *for* should not follow the colon.

(2) To separate a list of items from the main statement; as, *He sent me the following books:* Bain's English Composition and Rhetoric, Bate's English

Composition, the King's English, the Pocket Oxford Dictionary, and the Concise Oxford Dictionary. *My house consists of the following rooms:* two sitting-rooms, one drawing-room, two bathrooms, five bedrooms and one dining-room.

(3) To separate a quotation from the main statement; as, *He reminded me of the old proverb*: Fingers were made before forks and hands before knives.

(4) To separate the clauses of a compound sentence when they express a contrast and when a conjunction is omitted; as, I arrest criminals: *the judge lets them off.* I like science: *he dislikes it.*

**The Full Stop or Period (.)**

It indicates the longest pause; as, A survey of language, however superficial, makes it evident that when we speak of style we have to take into account those qualities of national character which are embodied in national speech.

It is used as follows:—

(1) To signify the end of a sentence; as, Hope is that pleasure of the mind which every one finds in himself upon the thought of a probable future enjoyment of a thing which is apt to delight him.

To follow abbreviations; as, M.A., LL.B., D.Sc., G.C.S.I., M.P., Rev. C. Brown.

To follow figures representing pounds, shillings, pence; as, £5. 10*s*. 8*d*.

To appear between figures expressing hours and minutes; as, 12.30 p.m.

To follow Roman numerals when they do not refer to page number; as, Chapter XI.

To follow numbers in a list of books. etc; as, 10.

No Full stop or Period is required after exclamatory or interrogative sentences; as, Why is your foot so cold? Brother! Brother! she cried in great distress, "do not desert me!"

Why lose we life in anxious cares,
To lay in hoards for future years?
God's in this Heaven
All's right with the world;
What is the matter with you?

To show the omission of words between parts of a sentence, a series of stops is required; as, This is the boy who ... me pounds.

**Inverted Commas or Quotation Marks (" ")**

(1). They are used when we quote an author or speaker's words; as, He said, "I am going to London." He said, "I am loyal to the Government."

(2) A quotation within a quotation is enclosed within single inverted commas; as, He said, "I am of opinion that the motto 'man is the noblest work of God' must always hold good."

(3) If both the inner and the outer quotation end at the same time, then three inverted commas appear at the end; as, He said, "I uphold the motto, 'take care that no one hates you justly.'"

**The Note or Mark of Interrogation (?)**

(1) It always appears at the end of a direct question; as, what are you doing? Is he known to you?

(2) No mark of Interrogation is required in indirect questions; as, I do not know what his name is.

(3) It expresses doubt when it is enclosed within brackets; as, He always acted conscientiously and wisely (?)

**The Exclamation Mark (!)**

It is placed after interjections or exclamatory expressions; as, ah, oh, alas, hurrah, hoity-toity,

God save the king! oh! thou monster of ignorance—Shakespeare.

And I wish his soul in heaven may dwell!

2. It sometimes follows an ironical statement; as, An honest man! A modest man!

3. It heightens the effect of a statement having absurdity; as, He declared that he has discovered the secret of perpetual motion!

4. It is used after an interrogative sentence

when it is exclamatory in effect; as, Are you then one of us! How mischievious is this boy!

**The Dash ( — )**

1. It indicates incompletion; as, Though he is right, yet—

2. It signifies hesitancy in speech; as, He turned deaf ear to—I hope so—but—that is—well, I will give it a trial.

3. It emphasizes what follows it; as, The two opponents met at last—*in court.*

4. It signifies a parenthetical statement when the parenthesis is omitted; as, I described—and I was a long time about it—what had taken place during my absence. I have formed names for three boys in accordance with these rules, which will give the youngsters—if they ever appear—a start in life to—cash capital of at least five thousand pounds.

5. It follows the side heading of a paragraph when a full stop precedes it; as, **Architecture.—** Of all the great arts none reflects more clearly than architecture the actual conditions of society; in the Middle Ages, at least, it tells us how people worshipped, how they fought, and how they lived.

6. The dash appears between a quotation and the name of a writer or a periodical; as, "I mean to harmonize in one document concatenation or

correlation, all human ideas, scientific, moral, and social."—Herbert Spencer.

7. It stands between an enumeration and the word or phrase that sums it up; as, In this cabinet I keep all my valuables—documents, watches, ornaments, and cash. He is clever, refined, handsome—everything, in short, that a woman may desire her husband to be.

**Brackets ( )**

They enclose a parenthetical statement or some explanation; as, At the age of twelve (such is the power of genius) he could read and write French, German, Italian, and Spanish well.

They are commonly used in Algebra; as, $(a^2—b^2—2ab)(a—b)=a^3—b^3$.

When double brackets are required, the curved ones are placed inside and the square ones outside; as, you will find further information below. [See paragraph 5 (B).]

**The Hyphen (-)**

It joins parts of compound words or separates words into syllables; as, Re-elect, Pro-British, Co-operate, re-establish; Pu-ppet. Won-der-ful,

2. It separates the component parts of numbers written in words; as, Fifty-five.

3. It is used between a word divided into two lines; as, inter-change, ex-tend.

**Capital Letters.**

The following require capital letters :—

1. The pronoun "*I*" and the interjection "*O*".

2. The first word of a sentence or a line of poetry; as, A boy of twelve, who has been spoilt by his widowed mother, is dying of consumption.

O well for the fisherman's boy,
That shouts with his sister at play!
O well for the sailor lad,
That he sings in his boat on the bay.

3. Proper nouns and adjectives; as, Sir H. Jackson, London; Miltonian, Shakesperian.

4. Political parties; as, Labour, Conservative, Liberal, Socialist, etc.

5. Days of the week and months of the year; as, Sunday, Monday, June or July, etc.

6. Festivals; as, Christmas, Easter.

7. Nouns and pronouns which refer to God; as, O Lord, He, Him etc; For God created man to be immortal, and made him to be an image of His own eternity.

8. The first word of a quotation; as, He said, "I am no fool".

9. Religious denominations; as, Christians, Mohammadans, Roman Catholics.

10. Words in the titles of books, plays, newspapers, etc., except conjunctions, articles, and

prepositions; as, Principles and Practice of Commercial Correspondence, a Guide to English composition, the Times of London.

11. Names of Rulers; as, The President of France, The King of Italy, President Hardinge.

12. Names of societies, clubs, buildings, librarsies; as, The Royal Society of London, The Punjab Club, Oxford Street, Buckingham Palace, The Cambridge University Library, The Institute of Bankers, The British Museum, The Royal Historical Society.

13. Objects when personified; as, O Reality, struggle towards Reality. Oh Death, where is thy sting. Hear, O Heavens, and give ear, O Earth, for the Lord hath spoken.—English Bible.

O Life, thou art a galling load,
Along a rough, a weary road,
To wretches such as I!

14. Terms when technically used; as, Political Science, the Parts of Speech, the Deluge.

## THE SEQUENCE OF TENSES.

1. When the verb in the principal clause is of the present or future tense, the verb in the dependent clause may be of any tense; as, If there is one thing that everybody detests, it *is* injustice. I will come when I *am* ready. My view is that he *will* come.

(*a*) When the verb in the principal clause is of the past tense, it must be followed by a verb of the past tense in the dependent clause; as, He told me that he *would* come. He arrived when I *had gone*. He spoke as if he *were ashamed*.

(*b*) When a dependent clause expresses a universal truth or habit, it may have a verb in the present indefinite tense; as, He said that the earth *moves* round the sun. He said that he *takes* a walk daily.

(*c*) When the principal clause is joined to the subordinate clause by a conjunction of comparison, the verb in the subordinate clause may be of any tense; as, He loved you more than me. He loved you as well as he loves me. He loved you more than he *will love* me. He loved you as well as he *will love* me.

2. When the principal clause has a verb in

the present or future tense and is joined to a subordinate clause of purpose, it must be followed by a verb in the present tense; as, He eats that he *may live.* He will eat that he *may live.*

Lest is always followed by should in the English of today; as, I work hard lest I should fail in the examination.

3. When a condition and its consequent are expressed, the indicative mood must be followed by the indicative, and the subjunctive mood, by the subjunctive; as, If he *meets me,* I *shall know* him. If he *should meet* me, I *should know* him.

4. When the clauses are co-ordinate and are joined by *and, nor,* or *but* and refer to simultaneous acts, the verbs should agree in tense and mood; as, England's best men thought and think that the French deserved and deserve sympathy and the French thanked and thank the English for their fellow-feeling.

5. When two subordinate clauses appear together, they become co-ordinate with each other and should agree in tense and mood; as, *If he was rich and if he was kind,* he was not charitable.

6. The present tense should be used instead of the future tense if the context expresses futurity; as, He will welcome Jones *when he visits London.* Tea will be ready by the time *you have returned from walk.*

7. A clause which expresses consecution is not governed by the rule relating to the past tense in the principal clause; as, This office was built so well and carefully *that it will last for thousands of years.*

8. The use of the present imperfect momentary tense of the infinitive mood with any tense of the finite verb is in accordance with the standard usage; as, I mean, will mean, or meant *to go.* Nature might serve *to rebuke* the foolish energies and misspent strivings of mankind.

9. When the infinitive expresses an act completed before the time implied by the principal verb, the present tense of the infinitive mood is used; as, He appears to have been a man of position. He seems to have suffered much loss.

10. When the past tenses of verbs which express unfulfilled *intention, hope, wish, or duty,* the present perfect momentary tense of the infinitive is used; as, He was *to have done* this work. He ought *to have gone* in time to catch the train. He meant *to have done* him harm. He hoped *to have topped* the list in the Matriculation Examination.

11. When the verb *to be* is in the past tense and expresses unfulfilled actions, it is followed by an infinitive mood of the present perfect tense; as, I was *to have seen* him. I was *to have gone* there. We were to *have gone to* France.

12. Rules of the Sequence of Tenses with special reference to conversion from direct into indirect narration :—

(*a*) Each simple present tense of the direct narration is changed into the simple past tense; as, He said, "I am poor." He said that he was poor.

(*b*) Each present perfect tense of the direct narration is changed into the past perfect; as, He said, "I *have been* poor". He said that he had been poor.

(*c*) Each present imperfect tense of the direct narration becomes past imperfect; as, He said, "I *am writing* letters." He said that he *was writing* letters.

(*d*) Each past indefinite tense of the direct narration becomes past perfect; as, He said, "My cows *died* last night." He said that his cows *had died* last night.

*Note* :—According to some authorities, the simple past tense of the direct narration does not change; as, He said, "I *lived* many years in Hungary." He said that he *lived* many years in Hungary.

(*e*) Each past perfect and past perfect continuous of the direct narration remains unchanged; as, He said, "I *had done* this work." He said that he *had done* that work. He said, "I *had been*

*doing* this work." He said that he *had been doing* that work.

13. Sometimes a present or future tense is used in the subordinate clause after a past tense in the principal clause, when the speaker knows that his statement is correct; as, You were not aware, till I told you, that your father is ill.

**A** *or* **An**.

*A* precedes words beginning with a consonant or a vowel having a consonant sound; as, *A cow, a dog, a lamb, a European, a one, a eulogy, a unique. An* is used before words beginning with a silent *h* or *a vowel having a vowel sound*; as, *An hour, an honest boy, an apple, an orange, an ass.* (See Articles.)

**A black and white cat, a black and a white cat.**

The former means one cat which is partly black and partly white, but the latter means two cats one of which is black and the other white.

**A fleet of twenty sail, ten yoke of oxen, fifty fathom deep, five hundred, ten thousand, etc.**

Words *Yoke, fathom, hundred, thousand, etc.,* when a definite numeral adjective precedes them, remain singular in form; as, Ten yoke, five fathom, three hundred, four thousand. But an adjective, when expressing an indefinite number precedes them, they assume a plural form; as, *Several hundreds, several thousands, etc.*

**A great many.**

It takes a plural verb; as, *A great many* of them were seen on the hills. *A great many* people are seen about St. Paul's. (See Articles.)

**A ground** *or* **a plot.**

The former in the sense of the latter is wrong. *A ground* means a reason, but a plot signifies a piece of land.

**A man by the name of Brown** *or* **a man named Brown.**

The former is incorrect but the latter is correct.

**A pence** *or* **a penny.**

Pence is a plural of penny which has another plural *pennies* Therefore *a pence* is wrong. The proper form is *a penny. Pennies* mean individual bronze coins; as, Six pennies equal six bronze coins. *Pence* means a sum or amount of pennies in value; as, Eighteen pence.

**A such** *for* **such a.**

I have never known *a such* person. (Unidiomatic); I have never known *such a* person. (Idiomatic).

**A top of** *for* **on top of.**

Prefer *on top of.*

**About my state of health** *or* **about the state of my health.**

Idiom requires that the expression should be *about the state of my health* and not *my state of health.*

**(The) above statement** *for* **the foregoing, the preceding,** *or* **the above mentioned statement.**

Prefer *the foregoing, the preceding or the above mentioned statement* to *the above statement* because *above* is

not an adjective and therefore it cannot qualify the noun *statement.*

**Abundant** *for* **innumberable.**

The former denotes quantity and not number. It is wrong to say *abundant* chairs or stools but it is right to say *abundant* wheat. *Innumerable* chairs or stools is the required form.

**Abuse** *for* **ill-treat.**

Abuse is *obsolete* in the sense of ill-treat.

**Acceptance, acceptation.**

*Acceptance* means consent to receive. *Acceptation* means the sense in which a word is used.

*Exemples :*—I have not used this word in its common acceptation. He begs your acceptance of this little gift.

**Accommodation train.**

It is an Americanism for a train stopping at all the stations.

**Acoustics.**

It is plural in form but takes a singular verb. It means that branch of physics which deals with the laws of sound.

**Adapt** (to fit or suit).

**Adopt** (to accept).

They resemble in sound, but differ in meaning.

**Addenda.**

It is the plural of *addendum* and therefore it must take a plural verb.

**Addict to.**

It is incorrect to use an infinitive with it; as, He is not *addicted to* drink. (Unidiomatic). He is *addicted to* drinking. (Idiomatic).

**Admit, confess.**

*Admit* means to accept; as, mistakes, reasons, etc. *Confess* means to acknowledge or declare sins before a priest.

**Admit, admit of.**

*Admit* means to afford admittance or entrance, but *admit of* signifies *allow*; as, He was *admited* into the Empress Garden. Your conduct does not *admit of* any excuse.

**Administer, deal.**

Medicines, laws and oaths are *administered.* Blows and punishment are *dealt.*

**No admission, *for* no admittance.**

*Admission* has other meanings in addition to that of *admittance* and therefore *admittance* which has no other meaning than that of admitting or being admitted is the preferred word so far the expression *no admittance* is concerned. The expression *no admission* should be avoided as authorities on English prefer *no admittance* to it.

**Advices** *or* **advice.**

The former is right when it means information; as, The manager of the bank received *advices* from the head office. It is wrong when it means an opinion; as, They gave me many good *advices.* (Incorrect). They gave me much good *advice.* (Correct).

**Advise, inform, counsel.**

*Advise* means to give or offer opinion as to action (for doing). *Inform* means to make known facts to a person who could not have known them before; as, He *informed* me of the death of my father. *Counsel* means to give advice that a superior gives to an inferior.

**Aero** is colloquial for aeroplane; aviation.

**Aerobus** is *slang* for aeroplane.

**Affect** (to influence; to pretend).

**Effect** (n. result; vb. to accomplish).

They resemble in sound but differ in meaning.

**Affright.** It is obsolete both as noun, meaning *a notice of danger* and as verb meaning *terrify.*

**After, in.**

*After* refers to past and *in* to future; as, I saw him *after* a few days or I shall see him *in* a few days.

**Agenda.**

It is the plural of Agendum and therefore it must take a plural verb.

**Ages.** It is colloquial for a long time.

**Aggravate** *for* **annoy.**

*Aggravate* means to make worse or more serious; as, The damp climate has aggravated his disease. *Annoy* means to irritate or make angry; as, He has annoyed me for no valid reason. Aggravate in the sense of annoy is colloquial.

**Ago, since.** (*See* Since.)

**Agreeable.** It is colloquial in the sense of favourably inclined; as, an agreeable (well-disposed) person.

**Aggregate, total.**

Prefer *total* to aggregate whenever the latter is dispensible.

**Aim to, aim at.**

It is incorrect to use an infinitive with it; as, *Aim to going* is unidiomatic but *aim at* going is idiomatic.

**Aisle** (a passage between the rows of pews in a church).

**Isle** (an island).

They resemble in sound, but differ in meaning.

**Alack.** It, as interjection, means an exclamation of regret, sorrow or astonishment and is *obsolete.*

**Ale** *or* **Beer.**

Prefer beer which is commoner.

**All other *for* all.**

*All* is used with superlatives but *other* with comparatives; as, He is the greatest of *all* men. (Correct). He is greater than any *other* man. (Correct). He is the greatest of *all other* men (Incorrect).

**A sum.**

It takes a singular verb; as, Five hundred pounds *is* a small sum.

**Allot.** It is an Americanism for calculate or reckon.

**Almighty.**

It means all-powerful and not merely powerful, and is used with reference to God alone.

**Also.**

*Also* is an adverb and not a conjunction and therefore it should be used as such; as, He went home and I *also* accompanied him. Some writers use it as conjunction, but correct writers condemn its conjunctional use.

*Examples*:—I wish to give my customers necessary information, *also* every facility for inspecting my goods. (Incorrect). I wish to give my customers necessary information, and *also* every facility of inspecting my goods (Correct).

**Altar** (a communion table).

**Alter** (to change).

They resemble in sound, but differ in meaning.

**Alumni.**

It is the plural of *alumnus* and therefore must take a plural verb.

**Alway.** It is *obsolete* and poetic for *always.*

**Always or ever.**

Prefer *always* to *ever* in prose.

**Ambry.** It is *obsolete* for a cupboard or a room in which food and untensils are kept.

**Amends, News, Summons, Gallows, Politics, Optics, Physics, Mathematics, Ethics, etc.**

These words take a singular verb and not a plural verb according to established usage.

**Among all the world, in all the world, among all men.**

The first expression is wrong and the last two expressions are right. Among is always used for more than *two* persons or things.

**An urgent business** or **an urgent piece of business.**

The former is unidiomatic but the latter is idiomatic.

**And.**

Avoid it at the beginning of a sentence. Some writers use it for the sake of emphasis but such

a use is not approved by authoritative books on English Composition and Grammar.

**And oblige.**

*Oblige* is a transitive verb and therefore it should take an object; as, Please send me two pair of boots and *oblige me* (not merely *and oblige*).

**And which.**

Idiom requires that *and which* cannot be correctly used without being preceded by another *which*; as, This is the tree *which* is full of fruit *and which* is hard to climb. (Correct). This is the tree *and which* is full of fruit. (Incorrect).

**And who.**

*And who* cannot be used unless another who precedes it; as, He is the man *and who* works hard. (Incorrect). He is a man *who* works hard *and who* always stands first in the House examination. (Correct).

**Anele.** It is *obsolete* and means to rub with oil.

**All money, for all the money, all goods for all the goods.**

All money, all goods (Unidiomatic).

All the money, all the goods (Idiomatic); as, He has lost *all the money* or *all the goods* that he had.

**All not *for* Not all.**

**All not** is unidiomatic; as, *All not* who supported him have left for Berlin.

**Not all** is idiomatic; as, *Not all* who supported him have left for Berlin.

**All over the world** for **all the world over** *or* **over all the world.**

The first is not as good an expression as *All the world over* or *over all the world*, but *all over the world* has been sanctioned by usage.

**Anent** *or* **about.**

*Anent* is *obsolete* and is replaced by *about.*

**Annoy.**

*Annoy* as a noun is poetic and obsolete.

**Annual** *or* **yearly.**

Prefer *yearly* to *annual* whenever the latter is dispensable.

**Another from** *for* **another than.**

*Another* is never followed by *from* but always by *than*; as, It is *another* kind of cloth *than* that. (Correct). It is *another* kind of cloth *from* that. (Incorrect).

**Answerable.** It is *obsolete* in the sense of agreeing, or adequate to.

**Anterior.**

It takes the preposition *to* and not the subordinative conjunction *than*; as, He died anterior (prior) to his brother.

**Anthracite Coal.**

*Anthracite* means a variety of *coal* and hence the addition of *coal* to it is superfluous.

**Antifogmentic.** It is an Americanism for a tonic made of whisky or rum, etc.

**Antiquated, ancient.**

*Antiquated* means old fashioned; as, His methods are *antiquated.* This piece of furniture is antiquated, *i. e.*, has gone out of use. Ancient means having existed from times long past or of early origin; as, Athens is an ancient city. We have borrowed certain articles of furniture from the *ancients* and these are now very fashionable. In a word all *antiquated* things are *ancient* but all *ancient* things are not *antiquated.*

**Any** *for* **any other.**

*Any other* should come after comparatives; as, Baker is cleverer than *any other* boy in this school. (Correct). Baker is cleverer than any boy in this school. (Incorrect).

**Any** *or* **either.**

*Any* is used in reference to more than two and *either* as a pronoun refers to one of two; as, I do not know *any* men of Bedford. I know *either* William or Jones.

**Anybody.**

*Anybody* is one word and not two. It takes a singular verb as well as singular pronouns and possessives refering to it; as, Have you seen *anybody* who does not take care of *his* own children.

**Any one.**

*Any one* is singular in form and meaning and words which refer to it must be singular; as, Shall I help *any one* in the subject that he chooses.

**Apiece** *for* **each**.

Prefer *each* to it.

I have engaged twenty labourers and I have decided to pay them two dollars *each* (not *apiece.*)

**Apprehend** *or* **comprehend.**

*Apprehend* means to take in by the senses or perceive, grasp or arrest. He *apprehends* no risk from his friends. *Comprehend* means to include or understand; as, He cannot *comprehend* the meaning of this letter. One should not be used for the other.

**Approbate.** It is *obsolete* and *American* for *sanction formally.*

**Approve** *or* **endorse.**

*Endorse* is preferable to *indorse* and means to write on the back of a cheque, bill of exchange, or letter of recommendation; as, One's name or signature. He has to *endorse* cheques, etc. It is not equivalent to *approve* which means to sanction, to commend (praise), or recommend; as, He has to *approve* this policy.

**Archiebald** *or* **Archibald** in the sense of a gun for destroying aeroplanes is *slang.*

**Are accrued** *for* **accrue from.**

*Accrue* is an intransitive verb, and therefore cannot be used in the passive voice. Use the preposition *from* after it; as, Much benefit *accrues from* (and not *are accrued*) contact with good men.

**Around** is an *Americanism* in the sense of about; as, I paid him around fifty dollars. (Incorrect) I paid him about fifty dollars. (Correct).

**Arrear** is *obsolete* in the sense of *rear* (of a train or procession, etc.)

**Arrival** in the sense of a new-born baby is *archaic*.

**Arrival**. (*See* incomparable adjectives).

**Arise** *for* **rise.**

He *rises* at six in the morning or he *rose* to the office of a manager of a bank. He *arises* at six in the morning is wrong because in the sense of getting up from bed it is *archaic*. He *arose* to the office of a manager of a bank is also *wrong* because *arose* in the sense of rose is incorrect.

**Aroma** *or* **fragrance.**

*Aroma* expresses a sweet smell as of spices, tea, coffee or turmeric. *Fragrance* means sweet or specially fresh or delicate smell as of fresh hay or flowers.

**Artist** (one who practises one of the fine arts).

**Artiste** (a professional dancer, singer, or painter).

**Brake** (a device for checking the motion of a wheel).

**Break** (to part forcibly).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Brass.** It is *slang* in the sense of money.

**Breach** (gap).

**Breech** (back end of a gun).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Bread-basket** is *slang* for stomach.

**Breeches.** It is *colloquial* in the sense of trousers.

**Breeze** is *slang* in the sense of mild disturbance, dispute.

**Brick.** It is *colloquial* in the sense of a good person.

**Bridal** (relating to marriage).

**Bridle** (the controlling gear of a horse).

They resemble in sound, but differ in meaning.

**Bring** *for* **Take.**

*Bring* means to come with; as, He *brings* two books from the library for me. *Take* means to carry with one; as, He *takes* all his luggage to London.

**Broach** (begin to speak).

**Brooch** (an ornamental safety-pin).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Brown.** It is *slang* in the sense of a copper coin.

**Bruit.** It is *obsolete* in the sense of noise or report.

**Brunch** is *slang* for breakfast and lunch combined.

**Bubble.** It in the sense of deceive is *uncommon.*

**Buck up.** It is *colloquial* in the sense of *make haste,* or be, or cause to be cheerful or vigorous.

**Bucket-shop.** It is an *Americanism* for an office dealing in shares, managed by persons who are not members of the Stock Exchange.

**Buffer.** It is *dialectal and Scottish* in the sense of *a foolish person.*

**Bully.** It is confined in the sense of *high excellence* to the *U. S. A. and the Colonies*; as, He is a *bully* in business. It is *obsolete* when it means a *ruffian.*

**Bullyrag.** It is *obsolete* in the sense of *render timid*, but it *is colloquial* in the sense of *abuse.*

**Bunk.** It is *slang* in the sense of *run away.*

**Burst up.** It is *colloquial* in the sense of *break into pieces with a loud noise.*

**But** *for* **as** *after* **so much.**

*So much* should take *as* and not *but* after it;

the top of the class. *At* refers to a small extent of time and *in* to a wider extent of time; as, He came here at 8 p. m. I shall see you *in* three weeks' time.

**Audience** *for* **spectators.**

*Audience* in the sense of spectators is wrong. *Audience* means an assembly of hearers or listeners. The word *spectators* means on-lookers.

**Auger** (a tool for boring).

**Augur** (to foretell).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Aught** (anything).

**Ought** (to be advisable).

They are words having the same sound, but djfferent meanings.

**Aussie.** It is *slang* for Australia.

**Avail.**

*Avail* is now rarely used as an intransitive verb and therefore its use in the passive voice should be avoided. According to modern usage it takes a *reflexive pronoun;* as, H≥ always tries to *avail himself* of good company. They *availed themselves* of this opportunity.

**Avenue** is an *Americanism* in the sense of a wide street.

**Avocation** *for* **vocation.**

*Avocation* means an irregular or minor occupa-

tion. *Vocation* means a permanent calling; as, I think that his *vocation* is law and that his *avocation* is knitting.

**Avaunt** is *poetic* and *obsolete* for *away with you.*

**Await for.**

*Await* is a transitive verb and therefore it must have an object and not a preposition; as, He *awaited for* me. (Incorrect). He *awaited* me. (Correct).

**Awful** in the sense of exceedingly great is *slang*; as, He is an awful fool. (Incorrect). He is an exceedingly great fool. (Correct).

**Awfully.**

*Awfully* in the sense of *very* is *slang*; as, I am *awfully* sorry for my conduct. (Incorrect). I am very sorry for my conduct. (Correct).

**Axes.**

It is a plural of *axis* and therefore must take a plural verb.

**Back-Chat.** It is *colloquial* for repartees or vigorous replies.

**Back Load.** It is an *Americanism* for a burden carried on the back.

**Back-Number** is *slang* for an antiquated (not up-to-date) person or thing.

**Badly.** It is not literary in the sense of *greatly* with want or need; as, I *badly* want or need money. It should be I *greatly* want or need money.

**Bad Hat** is *slang* for a characterless person.

**Bags** is *slang* for trousers.

**Balance**. It is *commercial slang* in the sense of *the remainder*.

*Examples*:—He gave the *balance* of his property to his relatives. (Incorrect).

He gave the *remainder* of his property to his relatives. (Correct).

**Bare** (naked).

**Bear** (n. a wild animal, vb. to carry).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Barnacles**. It is *slang* in the sense of glasses.

**Barque**. It is *poetic* for a ship, avoid it in prose.

**Battle bowler**. It is *slang* for a soldier's steel hat.

**Beach** (shore).

**Beech** (a forest tree).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Beastly**.

It is *colloquial* in the sense of *disagreeable*; as, I do not like this *beastly* weather. As adverb it is *slang* in the sense of *exeedingly* or to a *very high degree*; as, He is *beastly* idiotic.

**Because** *for* **That** *or* **Why**.

Reason is not followed by *because* but by *that* or *why;* as, William's reason for not coming to

see us is *that* he is very busy. (Correct). The reason *why* he has not come is not known to me. (Correct). William's reason for not coming to see us is *because* he is very busy. (Incorrect).

**Beer** (a drink).

**Bier** (a frame for carrying the dead to the grave or cemetery).

They resemble in sound, but differ in meaning.

**Before.**

It is an adverb of time, conjunction of time, and a preposition of time. It as adverb of time means *formerly*; as, He never *before* committed such a horrible offence. It as conjunction of time must be followed by a verb in one of the present tenses when the principal clause has a verb in the future tense; as, He will die *before* the rainy season sets in. It as preposition of time must precede a noun or phrase which refers to a point of time and never to a period of time; as, You must get up *before* 6 O' clock in the morning.

**Beg to state** *or* **Beg leave to state.**

The former is *wrong*, but the latter is *right*. Though *beg to state* is commonly used yet the correct form is *beg leave to state*. *Beg* is a transitive verb and requires an object like *leave*, etc. The present tendency is in favour of *beg to state*.

**Benison** is *poetic* for blessing, avoid it in prose.

**Begin** *or* **commence.**

Prefer *begin* (A. S.) to commence (L).

Whenever the latter is dispensible.

**Bent to** *or* **Bent on.**

It is incorrect to use an infinitive with it; as, He is *bent to* study English. (Unidiomatic). He is *bent on* studying English. (Idiomatic).

**Berry** (a small fruit).

**Bury** (to inter).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Berth** (a place in a ship for sleeping in).

**Birth** (an act of coming into existance).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Beside, besides.**

*Beside* means near by, close to, by the side of, or aside from; as, The cat sat *beside* the bed. I think that his arguments are *beside* the point (not to the point). They are *beside* themselves *i. e.*, not in their senses. *Besides* means in addition to or moreover; as, *Besides* furniture, he gave me a number of useful books.

**Bet, you** is an *Americanism* for doubtlessly.

**Between** *and* **among.**

*Between* is used for two persons or things but *among* is used for more than two persons or

things; as, Divide the mangoes *between* you and your brother. Divide the mangoes *among* ten persons. *Between* may be used for *more than two* when it expresses *reciprocity*; as, Telegraphic communications were opened between the different parts of the world. It is also correctly used in such a sentence; as, As there are two hundred stalls and there is a space of two feet *between* them.

**Between you and I.**

*Between* is a preposition and its object should be in the accusative case and *I* being in the nominative case is incorrect. *I* should be changed into *me* which is in the objective case; as, *Between you and me.*

**Betwixt** *or* **between.**

The former is *poetic* and *dialectal* and is replaced by *between.*

**Big, the** is *slang* for a few prominent persons.

**Big bug.** It is an *Americanism* for an eminent person.

**Big mouth** is an *Americanism* for one given to boasting.

**Billion** is an *Americanism* for a thousand millions.

**Billow** is *poetic* and *obsolete* for a wave. Avoid it in prose.

**Bird** is *slang* in the sense of a *girl.*

**Birds and bipeds** *or* **birds and other bipeds.**

The former is incorrect because the word

*bipeds* (two-footed animals) includes *birds* and therefore the word *other* should precede *bipeds.* The latter is correct.

**Blew** (past tense of blow).

**Blue** (sky-coloured).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Blighty** is *slang* for England.

**Blotting** *or* **Blotting-paper.**

*Blotting* is incorrect and the proper word is *Blotting-paper.*

**Blue laws** is an *Americanism* for severe Puritanic laws.

**Boarding** *or* **boarding-house.**

*Boarding* is often wrongly used instead of *boarding-house* which is the proper form.

**Bogey** (the standard score of a golf-course).

**Bogie** (a truck running on four wheels).

**Bogy** (a goblin).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Bone** is *slang* in the sense of steal.

**Boodle.** It is an *Americanism* for money or stock in trade.

**Boom.** It is an *Americanism* and means to prosper or progress rapidly in business.

**Boost.** It is an *Americanism* as noun in the sense of hoist.

**Boots.** It is *slang* in the sense of the youngest officer of a regiment or one of the junior members of a club.

**Bootleg** is an *Americanism* and means to sell liquor without a license.

**Born** (brought forth as young).

**Borne** (carried).

**Bourn** (a stream).

**Bourne or bourn** (bound or limit).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Bosh.** It is *slang* as both noun and verb and means (n) meaningless talk, (vb) to humbug.

**Boss** in the sense of a man in authority or manager is an *Americanism.*

**Both.** It should be used with reference to *two* persons and *not more* when it is an *adjective* or *pronoun*; as, *Both* men were convicted. *Both* of them (two) are right. But when it is used as *conjunction* it may refer to *more than two*; as, *Both* Brown, James, and Jones are convicted.

**A brace of birds, Two brace of birds, several braces of birds.** (See pair)

**Bracer** is *obsolete* in the sense of anything that refreshes or stimulates; tonic.

**Brainy.** It is an *Americanism* for clever or ingenious.

They resemble in sound, but differ in meaning.

**As follows** *or* **as follow**. *As follows* takes either a singular or plural subject in spite of the plural subject being inconsistent with grammar. Authorities on English as well as all the educated English people regard the plural subject of *as follows* as idiomatic; as, My colleagues are *as follows* is idiomatic. *As follow* is unidiomatic.

**As if** *and* **as though**.

*As if* and *as though* are always followed by a verb in the past tense; as, He looks *as if* he *doubted* (and not *doubts* or *will doubt*) my sincerity. He acted *as though* nothing depended (and not *depends* or *will depend*) upon him.

**As** *for* **such as**.

*As* cannot be used in the sense of *such as*; as, There are two pictures *as* are generally seen in museums. (Incorrect).

There are two pictures *such as* are generally seen in museums. (Correct).

**As to** *for* **about** *or* with **whether**.

*As to* should as far as possible be *avoided* because in ninty-nine cases out of hundred it is used instead of a more appropriate word *about* or *whether*; as, He seems to know nothing *as to* (*about*) the desireability of female education. I have heard nothing *as to* (about) his success or

failure. I doubt *as to whether* he will come here. *As to* is here superfluous because doubt takes the clause begun by *whether* as its object.

**As well as.**

*As well as* when it even joins a singular subject to a plural subject takes a singular verb; as, He as well as his brothers is guilty.

**Ascent** (upward movement).

**Assent** (agreement).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Assist** *or* **Help.**

Prefer *help* to *assist* whenever the latter is dispensable.

**Assoil.** It is *obsolete* for *forgive.*

**At fault** *or* **in fault.**

A person is *at fault* when he makes a blunder or mistake. A person is *in fault* when he does something blameworthy.

**At freedom** *or* **at liberty.**

The former is unidiomatic and the latter is idiomatic.

**At, In.** *In* precedes countries and large towns and *at* precedes small towns and villages; as He lives *in* England. I live *in* London. He lives *at* Milton. I live *at* Cambridge. *In* and *at* refer to things at rest; as He is *in* the room. He is *at*

as, He was not *so much* affected by the death of his mother as by the accident that disabled him for life.

**But** *or* **from** *for* **than** *after* **other** *or* **another.**

*Other* and *another* are always followed by *than* and never by *but or from*; as, He has no *other* object *than* obedience to his parents. Here *but* cannot be used at all. He took *another* combination *than* (not from) the one I suggested.

**But which.**

*But which* is always incorrect when not preceded by another *which* ; as, It is an act *which* I like *but which* others dislike. (Correct). It is the thing *but which* we all like. (Incorrect).

**By memory** *for* **by heart** *or* **by rote.**

*By memory* in the sense of *by heart* or *by rote* is wrong and the proper expression is either *by heart* or *by rote* ; as, He has learnt his lesson *by heart* or *by rote* and not *by memory.*

**By virtue of** *for* **in virtue of** *or* **by reason of.**

*By virtue of* is unidiomatic and *in virtue of* or *by reason of* is idiomatic.

*By virtue of* his services to the state he has been knighted. (Unidiomatic).

*By reason of* or *in virtue of* his services to the state he has been knighted. (Idiomatic).

**Cab.** It is *slang* in the sense of a cart.

**Cacography, calligraphy.**

*Cacography* means bad handwriting or spelling. *Calligraphy* means beautiful handwriting. The latter cannot be modified by fine or beautiful, because it embraces *beautiful* or *fine* in its meaning.

**Caitiff.** It is *obsolete* for a mean, despicable person.

**Cake.** It is *obsolete* in the sense of loaf.

**Calendar** (almanac).

**Calender** (a hot press).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Calender.** It is *obsolete* in the sense of one who presses in a calender (a machine for smoothing and polishing cloth etc.).

**Caliber.** (American Spelling).

**Calibre.** (English Spelling).

**Canceled.** (American Spelling).

**Cancelled.** (English Spelling).

**Can** *for* **may.**

*Can* means be able, and *may* means get permission. The two words are not synonymous. Can I go? (Incorrect). May I go? (Correct).

**Cannon.** (a big gun).

**Canon** (a clergyman belonging to the staff of a cathedral; a rule).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Cannot help but choose** is incorrect for *can not help choosing.*

**Canoodle.** It is *slang* in the sense of caress.

**Cavalier.** (n) Gentleman with courtly manners.

**Canvas** (a coarse linen cloth).

**Canvass** (to solicit votes).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Capitol.** It is confined to U. S. in the sense of the official building of the Congress.

**Car.** It is an *Americanism* in the sense of a carriage for use on a railroad.

**Carafe** *or* **Water-bottle.**

Prefer "*Water-bottle*"

**Carny.** It is *colloquial* for *persuade* by flattery.

**Carry.** It is *colloquial* in the sense of continue.

**Cast.** (a throw; a set of actors who take part in a play).

**Caste** (class).

**Cost** (price payable for a thing).

They resemble in sound, but differ in meaning.

**Catalog** (American Spelling).

**Catalogue** (English Spelling).

**Cat and mouse act.** It is *slang* for a law that enables hunger-strickers to get release for a time only.

**Catawba** is an *Americanism* for the fruit of the vine; the fermented juice of the grapes.

**Cathay.** It is *obsolete* for China.

**Cattles** *or* **cattle.**

The word *cattle* is a collective noun and has no plural and therefore *cattles* is wrong.

**Cease** *or* **stop.**

Prefer "*stop*"

**Ceiling** (the under covering of a roof).

**Sealing** (seal-fishery).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Celestial** *or* **Heavenly.**

Prefer "*heavenly*"

**Cellar** (an underground room).

**Seller** (one who sells).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Censer** (a pan in which incense is burnt).

**Censor** (an official authorized to license or suppress books, etc.).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Center** (American Spelling).

**Centre** (English Spelling).

**Centre** *or* **Middle.**

*Centre* means a point. One may occupy a seat

in the *centre* of a group but never in the middle of a *group. Middle* means a line. One hangs a curtain in the *middle* of a room and never in the *centre* of a room.

**Cereal** (any grain).

**Serial** (a story issued in instalments).

They resemble in sound, but differ in meaning.

**Cession** (surrender of territory to another state).

**Session** (a period during which sittings or meetings as of parliament, etc., are held.

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Champagne** (a French wine).

**Champaign** (an open country).

They resemble in sound, but differ in meaning.

**Chance to** *for* **Chance of.**

It is *incorrect* to use an infinitive with it; as, He has no *chance to* succeed. (Unidiomatic). He has no *chance of* succeeding. (Idiomatic).

**Change one's feet.**

It is *colloquial* in the sense of *put on other shoes.*

**Chap.** It is *colloquial* in the sense of *a young man.*

**Chargeable.** It is *obsolete* in the sense of costly or responsible.

**Check** (American spelling).

**Cheque** (English spelling).

**Checkered** (American spelling).

**Chequered** (English spelling).

**Cheesy**. It is *slang* in the sense of showy.

**Cheque** (an order for money on a bank).

**Check** (stoppage).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Chestnut**. It is *slang* in the sense of an old well-known joke or story.

**Chiefest.**

*Chief* is incomparable and therefore *chiefest* . is wrong. See also incomparable adjectives.

**Childish, childlike.**

*Childish* means becoming a child or unbecoming a man. *Childlike* means having noble qualities like a child; as, Simplicity or innocence.

**Childless.** (*See* incomparable adjectives).

**Chinaman** *or* **Chinese.**

A *Chinaman* or three *Chinamen* is oftener used than the three *Chinese*. Hundred thousand *Chinese* is oftener used than hundred thousand *Chinamen*. Usage demands that Chinamen should be used to express a small number of the inhabitants of China. Chinese is according to standard usage employed for expressing a considerable number of the inhabitants of China.

**Chinee.** It is *slang* for a Chinaman.

**Chip in.** It is *colloquial* in the sense of *cut in.*

**Chiropodist** *or* **corn-cutter.**

Prefer "*corn-cutter*"

**Chisel.** It is *colloquial* in the sense of *cheat* or *defraud.*

**Chivalry.** It is *obsolete* in the sense of a knight's feat.

**Choir** (a body of singers in a church).

**Quire** (twenty-four sheets of paper).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Chord** (a string of a musical instrument).

**Cord** (a thin rope).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Chuck.** It is *slang* for stop or leave off.

**Chum up.** It is *colloquial* in the sense of *become friendly.*

**Circuit-rider.** It is an *Americanism* for a travelling preacher.

**Circular.** (*See* incomparable adjectives).

**Civies.** It is *military slang* in the sense of civilian clothes.

**Claim** *or* **Assert.**

Claim in the sense of assert is confined to U. S.

*Examples* :—He *claims* five hundred pounds from the National Bank of India Limited. He *asserts* that he is right. *Claim* is used in respect of demands for something but *assert* is used in respect of affirmation or assertion.

**Claim** *for* **Declare.**

*Claim* means demand but *declare* means state or tell.

*Examples* :—He *claims* five thousand pounds as damages.

He *declares* that the sugar industry is congenial to India.

**Claim** *for* **Maintain.**

*Claim* means demand but *maintain* means uphold; as, I claimed (demanded) damages from him. I have always maintained (upheld) that he is wrong.

**Clamor** (American Spelling).

**Clamour** (English Spelling).

**Clerk** for a clergyman is now replaced by *cleric*.

**Clew** (American Spelling):

**Clue** (English Spelling).

**Climax, crisis.**

*Climax* means the highest point but *crisis* means a turning-point and therefore they are not identical in meaning; as, The prices of wheat have reached their *climax* (highest point). There has been

a *crisis* (a turning-point) in the cotton industry of India.

**Climb down.**

It is unidiomatic, ungrammatical and contradictory because *climb* means to go up and not go down. Therefore *down* cannot be used with *climb.*

**Clomb.** It is *archaic* and *poetic* for climbed, avoid it in prose.

**Close** *or* **Shut.**

Prefer "*shut.*"

**Clothes.**

It has no singular in the sense of garments (clothing).

**Coal-vase** or **Coal-scuttle.**

Prefer *coal-scuttle* (a vessel for holding and carrying coal for domestic use).

**Coat.**

*Coat* in the sense of professional garb is *obsolete.*

**Cocktail.** It is an *Americanism* for an appetising mixture of spirits, bitters and sugar.

**Codger.** It is *colloquial* in the sense of an old person or *dialectal* in the sense of a stingy, old person.

**Cold feet** is army *slang* in the sense of want of courage for remaining or fighting at the front in a war.

**Collude.** It is *obsolete* in the sense of avoid by trickery.

**Color** (American Spelling).

**Colour** (English Spelling)

**Collision. Collusion**

*Collision* means a violent encounter of moving bodies; as, A collision occurred between the Bombay and the Madras Mails. *Collusion* means a secret agreement to deceive the opposite party; as, He acted in collusion with his brother.

**Conscious, Conscientious.**

*Conscious* means aware of; as, You must be conscious of your position in life.

Conscientious means obedient to the dictates of conscience; as, He has been conscientious in all his dealings.

**Coma** (stupor preceding death).

**Comma** (a punctuation mark).

They resemble in sound, but differ in meaning.

**Combine together.**

*Combine* means to join together and therefore the use of *together* with *combine* is wrong.

**Coming** *or* **Advent.**

Prefer Coming.

**Commence.** It is *obsolete* in the sense of start.

*Example:—He commenced life as school-master.* (Incorrect). He started life as school-master. (Correct).

**Commence to or Commence.**

It is incorrect to use an infinitive with it; as,

He will *commence to* write. (Unidiomatic). He will *commence* writing. (Idiomatic).

**Commis.**

It is *obsolete* in the sense of *a delegate.*

**Commix.** It is *obsolete* in the sense of *mix together.*

**Commodious** *or* **convenient.**

*Convenient* means suitable or comfortable; as, This house is *convenient. Commodious* means spacious or roomy; as, This room is *commodious.*

**Commodious.** It is *obsolete* in the sense of convenient or handy.

**Commodity.** It is *obsolete* in the sense of suitableness.

**Common or Garden.**

*Common* means an unenclosed waste-land which belongs to a community.

*Garden* means a piece of land in which fruit, vegetables, and flowers are grown.

**Commune.** It is *obsolete* in the sense of *talk together* and in the sense of *partake of the Eucharist* (Lord's Supper) is confined to *U. S.*

**Company for dinner** *instead of* **Company at dinner.**

The former is unidiomatic and the latter is idiomatic.

*Example*:—The undersigned requests your company at dinner on Monday at 7 p. m. (Idiomatic).

The undersigned requests your Company for

dinner on Monday at 7 p. m. (Unidiomatic).

**Complacent, complaisant.**

*Complacent* means self-satisfied; as, He is complacent. *Complaisant* means condescending; as, He is complaisant to his inferiors.

As they differ in sense and sound, they are not interchangeable.

**Complaint.** It is an *Americanism* in the sense of a plaint in a civil suit.

**Complement** (that which completes).

**Compliment** (an expression of civility).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Complete.** (*See* incomparable adjectives).

**Complete.** It is *obsolete* in the sense of accomplished or consummate.

**Compliment** is *obsolete* in the sense of a complimentary present.

**Concede, Accede, Acquiesce.**

*Concede* means allow formally for the sake of argument; as, You should not concede these points. *Accede* means assent to silently; as, Why should I accede to your request. *Acquiesce* means agree to; as, I must acquiesce in your proposals.

**Conceit.** It is *obsolete* in the sense of conceive or imagine.

**Conciseness** *or* **Brevity.**

*Conciseness* is the act *of* expressing much in a few words; as, His *conciseness* of statement has been admired by all.

*Brevity* denotes shortness of expression; as, *Brevity* has been observed in this statement.

**Condign.**

*Condign* means deserved or well merited; as, *Condign* vengeance or *condign* punishment. It does not express praise *nowadays*.

**Confab** It is *colloquial* for confabulation and means conversation or familiar talk.

**Confess** *or* **Acknowledge.**

Prefer *acknowledge* wherever *confess* is dispensable.

**Confidence** *or* **Trust.**

Prefer *trust* whenever *confidence* is dispensable.

**Congratulate** *for* **Felicitate.**

See *felicitate.*

**Connection** *or* **Connexion.**

*Connexion* is the preferred spelling.

**Consider of.** It is *obsolete* in the sense of *think over*.

**Consider** *or* **Regard.**

*Regard* is followed by *as* but *consider* is not followed by as; as, He *regards* me *as* unfit for service. He *considers* me unfit for service.

**Constitute** *or* **Form.**

Prefer *form.*

**Contagious** *or* **Infectious.**

*Infectious* means transmissable or communicable through water or air; as, Malaria. *Contagious*

means transmissable or communicable through direct or indirect touch with the patient; as, Lahore-sore or leprosy.

**Contemptuous or Contemptible.**

*Contemptible* means deserving hatred. *Contemptuous* signifies scornful or showing hatred.

*Examples*:—1. Your conduct is contemptible. 2. His remarks were contemptuous.

**Continuate.**

*Continuate* as both verb and adjective is *obsolete.* It means (*vb*) to render continuous in either space or time (*adj*) continuous.

**Continuous** *or* **continual.**

*Continual* means very frequent or often repeated. *Continuous* means unbroken, uninterrupted, or unceasing.

*Examples*:—The *continual* use of heavy food makes a man ill. The *continuous* study of history gives one a mastery over it.

**Contumacy** *or* **Contumacity.**

Prefer the former to the latter.

**Convenience.** It is *obsolete* in the sense of a *carriage.*

**Convoy.** It is *obsolete* in the sense of a guide.

**Cony-catcher.** It is *obsolete* for a cheat.

**Cook Accounts.** It is *colloquial* in the sense of tamper with accounts.

**Copper.** It is *slang* in the sense of a policeman.

**Corker**. It is *slang* for something that stops discussion.

**Corporal** *or* **Corporeal**.

*Corporal* means bodily; as, The modern tendency is against corporal punishment. *Corporeal* means tangible; as, corporeal property.

**Corporeal** *or* **Bodily**.

*Bodily* is preferable to *corporeal* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Corporal oath** is *obsolete* for an oath taken by touching the cloth spread upon the altar during the mass.

**Correctitude** *or* **Correctness**.

Prefer *Correctness*.

**Couch** *or* **Sofa**.

Prefer *sofa*.

**Council** (an assembly for consultation).

**Counsel** (*n.* opinion, *vb.* advise).

They resemble in sound, but differ in meaning.

**Councilor** (American spelling).

**Councillor** (English spelling).

**Counselor** (American spelling).

**Counsellor** (English spelling).

**County Court.** It is *colloquial* for *file a suit in a county court.*

**Courage, Bravery.**

*Bravery* means valour, heroism, actions, or conduct when facing a danger or difficulty. *Courage* means that quality of mind which faces danger with fearlessness, calmness, and firmness, and it refers to that state of mind which enables one to oppose danger, endure misfortune, or stick to a principle. *Courage* is a state of mind, but *bravery* is that of temperament.

**Crab.** It is *obsolete* in the sense of beat with a short, thick stick.

**Crack.** It is *obsolete* when as noun it means a liar or boaster and when it is adjective, it is *colloquial* for first rate; as, A *crack* regiment.

**Cracked.** It is *colloquial* for *insane* and *obsolete* for *bankrupt.*

**Cracker.** It is *colloquial* for a *lie* and it is confined to the U. S. A. in the sense of a hard biscuit.

**Cram.** It is *slang* in the sense of a lie.

**Creek.** It is confined to the U. S. A. and the British Colonies in the sense of *a branch of a river.*

**Crib.** It is *colloquial* in the sense of a *key* to a classical author.

**Crochet** (threadwork done with a hooked needle).

**Crotchet** (a whim).

They differ in sense and sound.

**Cross**. It is *colloquial* in the sense of ill-*tempered.*

**Crush**. It is *colloquial* in the sense of a crowded meeting for some social purpose.

**Crystal**. It is *colloquial* in the sense of ice.

**Cultivation** *or* **Culture.**

*Culture* means education or enlightenment but *cultivation* means tilling. *Cultivation* in the sense of education or enlightenment has been replaced by *culture.*

**Curl.** It is *obsolete* in the sense of adorn with curls.

**Custom to** *or* **Custom of.**

It is incorrect to use an infinitive with *custom*; as, There is no *custom to* pay money to the poor. (Unidiomatic). There is no *custom of* paying money to the poor. (Idiomatic.)

**Customer.** It is *obsolete* in the sense of an officer who collects customs.

**Symbal** (a musical instrument).

**Symbol** (an emblem).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Daily** *or* **Diurnal.**

Prefer *daily.*

**Damage.** It is *slang* in the sense of price.

**Dander.** It is an American *colloquialism* for anger.

**To get one's dander up** is *colloquial* for to become angry.

**Dare.**

When it means venture or have courage, it is intransitive and its third person singular remains *dare* instead of *dares* after interrogative and negative sentences; as, He *dare* not talk against me. (Negative). *Dare* he take it? (Interrogative). In the preceding sentences it takes an infinitive without *to*. *Dare* is conjugated; as, *dare, dared, dared, or dare, durst durst*. *Dare* when used transitively means defy or challenge and is conjugated; as, *dare, dared, dared. Examples*:—He *dares* me to say. He *dared* me to fight. In the transitive sense the third person singular takes *s* like other verbs, and it may be followed by an infinitive with *to*. The verb *dare* is never followed by an adjective.

**Darkey.** It is *colloquial* for a negro.

**Data.** It is the plural of *datum* and therefore must take a plural verb.

**Dead.** (*See* incomparable adjectives).

**A deal.** It is *colloquial* in the sense of *a lot.*

**Dear** *or* **My dear.**

*My dear*, when it precedes the name of a person, is more formal than *dear*; as, *My dear* Jackson is more formal than *dear* Jackson.

**Debility** *or* **Weakness.**

*Weakness* is preferable to *debility* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Decided** *or* **Decisive.**

*Decided* means settled or unquestionable; as, He has gained a most *decided* success. *Decisive* means conclusive or final; as, The *dicisive* battle was fought in 1918.

**Decry** *or* **Descry.**

*Decry* means to disparage or discredit; as, He always *decries* his opponents. Descry is *archaic* in the sense of *decry* and now means to make out or discover; as, I cannot *descry* those objects.

**Deduce, Deduct.**

*Deduce* is *archaic* in the sense of *deduct* and means to draw as a conclusion from facts; as, It is doubtlessly true that the knowledge of causes is deduced from their effects. *Deduct* is *archaic* in the sense of *deduce* and now means to subtract from; as, He *deducted* £500 from the amount that he owed me.

**Decent** (having propriety).

**Descent** (going down).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Declination** is *obsolete* in the sense of courteous refusal.

**Decorous** *or* **Decorum.**

*Decorous* means proper in taste, courteous, proper in conduct, or in speech.

*Decorum* means propriety. The former is an adjective and the latter is a noun. Therefore these two words are not interchangeable.

**Deep, the.** It is *poetic* for *sea.*

**Deer.** See sheep.

**Defective** *or* **Deficient.**

*Defective* means faulty but *deficient* means insufficient or inadequate; as, This engine is *defective.* Saconde is *deficient* in English.

**Defend** *or* **Guard.**

*Guard* is preferable to *defend* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Defense** (*American* spelling).

**Defence** (*English* spelling).

**Definite** *or* **Definitive.**

*Definite* means not vague; precise, exact, or speeific; as, I have given a *definite* answer. *Definitive* means decisive, final, or conclusive; as, I have made a *definitive* (final) bid for his horse.

**Delight to** *or* **Delight in.**

It is incorrect to use an infinitive with *delight*; as, He has no *delight to* go to the theatre. (*Unidiomatic*). He has no *delight in* going to the theatre. (*Idiomatic*).

**Deliverance, Delivery.**

*Deliverance* is *archaic* in the sense of *delivery* and now means liberation or setting free; as, Mr. Smith's *deliverance* depends upon his turning over a new leaf. *Delivery* is *archaic* in the sense of *deliverance* and now means child-birth; the periodical distribution of letters; the manner of making a speech, etc.

**Dentifrice** *or* **Toothpowder.**

*Toothpowder* is preferable to *dentifrice* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Depart, leave.**

*Depart* means deviate from or die; as, He *departed* this life. He *departed* from principles. It also means *to go away* (*literary*). *Leave* means to go away from; as, I shall *leave* Cambridge for London tomorrow.

**Depend** *for* **Hang.**

Never use *depend* in the sense of *hang*; as, His picture depended on the wall is wrong and the proper substitute for it is *is hung* or *is suspended.*

**Deplacement** *or* **Displacement.**

*Displacement* is preferable to *Deplacement* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Depositary** (a person with whom a thing is deposited).

**Depository** (a place of storage or in which a thing is deposited).

They resemble in sound, but differ in meaning.

**Deprecate, Depreciate.**

*Deprecate* means protest against or express disapproval of; as, I deprecate this treatment. *Depreciate* means to lower in price, to belittle; as, you have no justification for depreciating my services. These articles are depreciating.

**Derring do** is *obsolete* for desperate courage.

**Desideratum** *or* **Want.**

*Want* is preferable to *desideratum* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Design.**

It is incorrect to use an infinitive with it; as, His *design* to complete this work· failed. (*Unidiomatic*). His design of completing this work failed. (*Idiomatic*)

**Desist** *or* **Stop.**

*Stop* is preferable to *desist* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Desist** *or* **Cease.**

*Cease* is preferable to *desist* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Desert** (*n.* a barren place).

**Dessert** (*fruit* or *a fruit course* taken at the end of a *dinner*).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Deteriorate.**

Though the latest dictionaries record its transitive meanings yet the present tendency of the standard writers is against this use. Avoid it as transitive; as, The want of discipline has *deteriorated* the German army. (*Incorret*). The want of *discipline* of the German army has caused it to *deteriorate*. (*Correct*). They have not morally *deteriorated*. (*Correct*).

**Devote, Addict.**

*Devote* is always used in a good sense but *addict* is always used in a bad sense; as, He *devotes* himself to religion. He is *addicted* to bad habits.

**Dew** (moisture on the grass).

**Due** (payable, proper, or ascribable to).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Dialectal, Dialectic.**

*Dialectic* means of, or relating to logic, but *dialectal* means relating to a dialect (a language modified by local peculiarities).

*Examples* :—This piece of prose is dialectic. Avoid the use of dialectal words.

**Dicta.**

It is the plural of *dictum* and therefore must take a plural verb.

**Die** (cease to live).

**Dye** (*vb.* to colour, *n.* colour).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Diggings.** It is *colloquial* for lodgings.

**Dinghy, Dingy.**

*Dinghy* means a ship's small boat. Dingy means dull-coloured. They differ both in sense and in sound.

**Direct** *or* **Guide.**

*Guide* is preferable to *direct* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Directly, As soon as.**

*Directly* is *colloquial* as conjunction and means *as soon as*; as, Directly he comes, I shall go. (*Colloquial*). *As soon as* he comes, I shall go. (*Literary*).

**Discreet** (vigilent or prudent).

**Discrete** (separate).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Discriminate** *or* **Discern.**

*Discern* means to see apart from all other objects; as, He *discerns* what lies in things. *Discriminate* means to grasp, understand, or apprehend exact *difference* between things and to judge in which those *differences* lie; as, To *discriminate* true from false honesty or true from a false friend.

**Discover, Disclose.**

*Disclose* means reveal or make known; as, You should not disclose secrets. *Discover* means find out; as, Colombus discovered *America.*

**Disfigure, Deface, Deform.**

*Disfigure* means to injure the figure. *Deface* means to injure the face and *deform* mêans to injure the form. They are not interchangeable.

**Disorder.** *See* Tumult.

**Disremember** *or* **Fail to remember.**

*Disremember* is dialectal and is replaced by *fail to remember.*

**Distingue** *or* **Striking.**

*Striking* is preferable to *distingue* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Diurnal** *or* **Daily.**

*Daily* is preferable to *diurnal* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Dive.** It is an *Americanism* for an unlicensed drinking-den.

**Divers, Diverse.**

*Divers* means various or several, but *diverse* means unlike in nature and quality. They are no longer interchangeable.

**Do not know nothing** *or* **Know nothing.**

Idiom requires *know nothing* instead of *do not know nothing* which is condemned in the present day English; as, Do not know nothing about him. (*Unidiomatic*). They know nothing about him. (*Idiomatic*).

**Dodger.** It is an *Americanism* for a hard-baked cake of maize.

**Domestic** *or* **Servant.**

*Servant* is preferable to *domestic* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Donate** *or* **Give.**

*Give* is preferable to *donate* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Don't** *or* **do not.**

*Don't* is a *colloquialism* for *do not.*

**Dose, Doze.**

*Dose* means medicine to be taken at one time. *Doze* means a short sleep. They differ both in sense and in sound.

**Dozen.**

When *dozen* is preceded by a definite numeral adjective, it remains singular in form; as, six *dozen* When it is preceded by an indefinite numeral adjective, it becomes *dozens*; as, *Several dozens.*

**Draft.** (rough copy or detachment).

**Draught** (a current of air).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Draw** *or* **Pull.**

*Draw* is preferable to *pull* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Drench,** It is *obsolete* in the sense of a drink.

**Drunk** is *colloquial* in the sense of a prolonged spell of drinking.

**Drunk** *or* **Tipsy.**

*Drunk* is preferable to *tipsy* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Dual** (double).

**Duel** (a combat which is arranged between two persons).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Dubious** *or* **Doubtful.**

*Doubtful* is preferable to *dubious* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Dude** is an *Americanism* for a dandy.

**Dust**. It is *slang* in the sense of money.

**Dyeing** (colouring).

**Dying** (pertaining to or at the time of death).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Each.**

As adjective or pronoun it refers to two or more persons or things severally or singly and it takes a singular verb as well as a singular pronoun refering to it; as, *Each* of them has brought a chair for his own (not their) use. *Each* man and woman was fined.

**Each other** *or* **One another.**

*Each other* is used in reference to two persons but *one another* is used in reference to more than two; as, William and Jackson fought *each other*. Charles, David, Edward, and Baker helped *one another*.

**Economic** *or* **Economical.**

*Economical* means saving, thrifty, or frugal. *Economic* means relating to or of economics (the science that treats of the production and the distribution of wealth).

**Edifice** *or* **Building.**

*Building* is preferable to *edifice* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Effect.**

It is incorrect to use an infinitive with it; as, *Effect* to exhaust the man power of the Germans failed, (*Unidiomatic*). *Effect* of exhausting the man power of the Germans failed. (*Idiomatic*).

**Effects, Effect.**

Effects mean consequences; property; as the effects of this disease resulted in his death. His effects (property) amounted to £ 20,000. Effect means result or consequence; as, I do not know the effect of this policy. The former differs from the latter in the sense of property.

**Effectual, Effective, Efficacious.**

*Effectual* is *obsolete* in the sense of *effective* and now means producing the intended effect; as, He took effectual steps. Effective means producing a striking effect; as, I am not an effective speaker. *Efficacious* means producing the intended effect with special reference to medicines or remedies; as, This is the most efficacious remedy for piles.

**Effluvia.**

It is the plural of *effluvium* and therefore must take a plural verb.

**Eftsoon.** It is *obsolete* and should not be used,

**Egregious.** It is *obsolete* in the sense of projecting or distinguished.

**Either, Or.**

*Either* as pronoun means one or the other. It refers to persons or things and takes a singular verb; as, *Either* of you is right.

*Either* as adjective refers to two persons or things and never to a larger number; as, *Either* course will lead to success.

*Either* as conjunction can be used for two or more; persons, or objects as, *Either* you, he, or I am right.

**Eke out.**

It means to supplement; as, *Eke out* your income by odd jobs. It is *incorrect* in the sense of support or make livelihood.

**Eke** is poetic and *obsolete* for *also.*

**Elder** *or* **Older, Eldest** *or* **Oldest.**

*Elder* and *eldest* refer to members of the same family and never to things or other persons and they are not followed by the conjunction *than*; as, Charles is my *elder* brother and William's *eldest* son. *Older* and *oldest* refer to persons and things; as, This is the *oldest* coat. London is the *oldest* city. Gilpin is the *oldest* man in Milton. He is *older* than I am. This coat is *older* than that.

**Electro**. It is *colloquial* for an electroplate.

**Elevate** *or* **Raise.**

*Raise* is preferable to *elevate* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Elevator** *or* **lift.**

*Lift* is a common English word and means a device for taking up and bringing down persons or luggage, etc., in a hotel or other lofty building. *Elevator* in the sense of lift is confined to U.S.A.

**Emigrant** (one who leaves ones country for settlement in another).

**Immigrant** (one who enters a country for settling there).

**Employment** *or* **Appointment.**

*Employment* is an abstract noun and therefore it does not require any article; as, He secured an *employment* in the P.W.D. (*Wrong*). He secured

*employment* in the P.W.D. (*Right*) He secured a post or an *appointment* in the P.W.D. (*Correct*).

**Empty**. (*See* incomparable adjectives).

**Endeavour** *or* **Try.**

*Try* is preferable to *endeavour* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Engineer** is confined to the U.S.A. in the sense of *carry through a measure* ; as, You should not engineer this policy.

**English**. (*See* incomparable adjectives).

**Enquire** *and* **enquiry** *for* **Inquire** *and* **inquiry**.

Standard English usage prefers *inquire* and *inquiry* to *enquire* and *enquiry*.

**Ensample**. It is *obsolete* as noun and verb in the sense of (n) specimen or (vb.) model.

**Ensue** *or* **Be ensued**.

*Ensued* is the past tense of the intransitive verb *ensue* and therefore it cannot be used in the passive voice. Use instead of it *ensue*.

**Enthuse**. It is *American slang* for *become or make enthusiastic*.

**Entire** (*see* incomparable adjectives).

**Entirety** *or* **Whole**.

Prefer *whole* which is of Anglo-Saxon origin to *entirety* which is derived from Latin.

**Envelop** (surround or wrap up).

**Envelope** (a cover of a letter).

They resemble in sound, but differ in meaning.

**Envious** *or* **Enviable.**

*Envious* means full of envy; as, One is *envious* of that which belongs to another and to which one has no right or claim. *Enviable* means that which excites envy; as, Your position is *enviable.*

**Envious** *or* **Jealous.**

*Envious* means having selfish ill will towards another; as, William's prosperity, popularity, and politeness make me *envious* of him. *Jealous* means anxious about preserving one's right or having fear of losing one's rights; as, I am *jealous* of my rights. He is *jeolous* of his friends.

**Envoy** (n) in the sense of closing lines of a poem is *obsolete.*

**Equally as well, Equally well, As well as.**

*Equally as well* is *unidiomatic* and the correct idiom is either *equally well* or *as well as*; as, He loves me *equally well.* He *as well as* his brother loves me.

**Ere** *or* **Before.**

*Before* is preferable to *ere* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Erect** *or* **Build.**

*Build* is preferable to *erect* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Errata.**

It is the plural of *erratum* and therefore must take a plural verb.

**Erst.**

*Erst* (adv.) is the superlative of ere and is now replaced by formerly or sooner.

**Erstwhile.**

It is *obsolete* and is replaced by *formerly.*

**Etiquette.**

It has no plural.

**Evangel.** It is *obsolete* for one of the gospels.

**Eve.** It is *poetic* for evening.

**Event, Accident.**

*Event* means an occurrence; as, This is an event which marks a change in his life. *Accident* means a chance.

**Everglades.**

It is an *Americanism* for marshy tracts having patches of tall grass.

**Everlasting** *or* **Eternal.**

*Everlasting* means having no end but *eternal* means without beginning and end; as, He has put me under an *everlasting* gratitude. God alone is *eternal.*

**Every one.**

Every one is singular and takes a singular verb as well as singular nouns or pronouns which refer

to it; as, *Every one* must read *his* own books. (*Correct*). *Every one* read *their* own books. (*Incorrect*).

**Evidence** *or* **Testimony.**

*Testimony* means a declaration or statement of witnesses either in a legal or other sense. *Evidence* means information derivable from a person or other sources tending to prove a fact or facts; as, The *testimony* of reliable persons has proved his guilt. *Evidence* which consists of oral and documentary proof establishes his innocence.

**Evident, Apparent** *or* **Manifest.**

*Apparent* means that which appears. *Evident* and *manifest* mean that which is clear to the eye or mind.

**Ewe** (a female sheep).

**Yew** (an evergreen tree).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Exacerbate** *or* **Enrage.**

*Enrage* is preferable to *exacerbate* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Exceeding** (adv) is *obsolete* and is equal to exceedingly; as, He is exceeding glad to see you. (*Incorrect*). He is exceedingly glad to see you. (*Correct*).

**Excel** *or* **Exceed.**

*Excel* means to surpass or go beyond (others) in quality or to be pre-eminent at or in quality

or doing; as, He *excelled* in English. He *excelled* others in English. *Exceed* means to be greater than or do more than; as, Jones, losses *exceeded* his expectations. He *exceeds* the limits of work set to him, *i. e.* did more than he was required.

**Exceptional, Exceptionable.**

*Exceptional* means forming an *exception* or unusual; as, He is *exceptional* in certain respects. *Exceptionable* means objectionable; as, His conduct is *exceptionable* in this respect.

**Exclusive** *or* **Select.**

*Select* is preferable to *exclusive* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Excuse.**

It is *incorrect* to use an infinitive with it; as, He has no *excuse* to be rude to me. (*Unidiomatic*). He has no *excuse* for being rude to me. (*Idiomatic*).

**Except** *or* **Unless.**

*Except* is a preposition and *unless* is a conjunction and therefore they are not interchangeable.

**Excepting, Except.**

*Excepting* is sometimes used as preposition. It should come after a negative; as, All the members of the Legislative Assembly not *excepting* the President and Deputy President of the Assembly, have paid a tribute to the Viceroy for his sympathetic address. It cannot be used correctly without being

preceded by *not* or other negative. *Excepting* means *excluding and not including*. *Except* means *not including*; as, All men *except* him are wrong.

**Except, Besides *or* Unless.**

*Except* is now used as preposition and not as conjunction and it is replaced in the English of today by *unless*. *Besides* means in addition to. *Unless* means if not.

**Except *or* Save.**

*Except* or *save* as conjunction should not be used in the English of today.

**Extract, Extricate.**

*Extract* means draw out as teeth; make extracts from a book. *Extricate* means to disentangle or free from as intricacies, etc.

**Excuse me *or* Pardon me.**

*Excuse* refers to a small fault. *Pardon* refers to a serious fault. A superior *pardons* an inferior. Equals *excuse* each other. The Viceroy *pardons* a criminal. William *excuses* Jackson for his fault.

**Exodus *or* Departure.**

*Exodus* should not be used in the sense of *departure* if the going out of a large number of people is not in view; as, The *exodus* of Israelites (Jews) from Egypt. (*Correct*). Mr. Jackson's *exodus* from London. (*Incorrect*). Mr. Jackson's *departure* from London. (*Correct*).

**Expect, Conclude, Suppose.**

*Expect* means look for; as, I *expect* him every moment. *Conclude* means infer; as, I *conclude* from his speech that he is not sincere. *Suppose* means imagine or conjecture; as, I *suppose* that you are wrong.

**Expectorate** *or* **Spit.**

*Spit* is preferable to *expectorate* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Experience** *or* **Feel.**

*Feel* is preferable to *experience* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Extreme.** (*See* incomparable adjectives).

**Extinct** *or* **Defunct.**

*Defunct* means recently dead or ceased to exist; as, This law is *defunct*. *Extinct* means gone out of existence especially a race, family, speices, or tribe.

**Facilitate.**

According to English idiom this word cannot have a person for its subject; as, My recommendation *facilitated* his admission into this college and not I have *facilitated* his admission into this college.

**Factious, Facetious, Factitious.**

*Factious* means relating to faction; seditious; as, He appears to be factious. *Facetious* means humorous or amusing; as, Your remarks are facetious. *Factitious* means artificial or not natural; as, Luxury is conducive to factitious wants.

**Factor** *or* **Competitor.**

*Factor* means influence or circumstances which contribute to a result; as, The reduction of wages in the industry of India is the main *factor* in the fall in prices. (*Correct*). I regard him as a dangerous factor (competitor) not only for the Indian but also for the world Championship (*Incorrect*). Factor should not be used in the sense of a competitor.

**Faculty**. It is an *Americanism* in the sense of executive efficiency.

**Fagot** (*American* spelling).

**Faggot** (*English* spelling).

**Fain** (gladly).

**Feign** (to pretend).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Faint** (n. a swoon, vb. to lose courage).

**Feint** (a pretended move to mislead an enemy).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Fair** (beautiful or just, free from blemish; a gathering at a fixed time for the sale of goods).

**Fare** (charge for conveyance of a passenger).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Fair, a** for woman is *obsolete*.

**Fall** is an *Americanism* for autumn.

**Family member** *or* **Member of a family.**

*Family member* is correct when it means a member having a family but it can never be used in the sense of a *member of a family;* as, He is my *family member.* (*Incorrect*). He is a *member of my family.* (*Correct*).

**In a family way. In the family way.**

*In a family way* differs from *in the family way* because the former means without ceremony or formality and the latter means with child or pragnant.

**Famous.** It is *obsolete* in the sense of notorious, and is *colloquial* in the sense of excellent or very good.

**Fancy man** is *slang* in the sense of a dependant of a prostitute.

**Farther, Further.**

*Farther* means to a greater distance. It is practically *archaic* as verb and is also *obsolete* in the sense of further.

*Further* means also, besides, or moreover, and it is also used as verb.

*Examples:*—Do not go farther than others. He does not wish to proceed further in the matter. I have tried to further his interest.

**Faun** (a god of the woods and herds).

**Fawn** (a young deer).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Faultless.** *See* incomparable adjectives.

**Favorite** (*American* spelling).

**Favourite** (*English* spelling).

**Fearful to** *or* **Fearful of.**

It is incorrect to use an infinitive with it; as, You are not *fearful to* lose money. (*Unidiomatic*). You are not *fearful of* losing money. (*Idiomatic*).

**Feasible, Practicable.** (*See* practical).

**Fed up.** It is *colloquial* for tired of.

**Felicitate** *or* **Wish joy.**

*Wish joy* is preferable to *felicitate* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Felicitate, Congratulate.** *See* wish joy.

**Female.** It is now contemptus for *a woman.*

**Fetch, Bring.**

*Fetch* means to go to another place from that in which one is before starting the action and bring something back with one; as, Fetch twenty apples for me.

*Bring* means cause to come with; as, Bring me the book.

**Few, In.** It is *obsolete* in the sense of concisely or in short.

**Few, a Few.**

*Few* means not many and is a negative adjective.

*A few* means some and is an affirmative adjective.

**Figure** *or* **Amount.**

According to standard usage *figure* cannot be used in the sense of *amount*; as, I bought a horse at that *figure*. (*Incorrect*). I bought a horse for that *amount*. (*Correct*).

**Filibuster.** It is confined to U. S. A. in the sense of one who hinders progress in legislation or business.

**Fine, Finely.**

Fine means delicate. Finely means delicately, thinly, or excellently. The two words differ from each other because the one is an adjective and the other, an adverb.

**Finish** *or* **Complete.**

Finish is preferable to complete when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Fire-new.** It is *obsolete* for brand-new.

**First** *or* **Firstly.**

The former has been in use both as an adjective and as an adverb for a thousand years but *firstly* as an adverb is used in the works of Dickens and De Quincey. Many writers prefer *first*.

**Fisher** is *obsolete* in the sense of a fisherman and is *slang* in the sense of a currency note.

**Fishy.** It is *slang* for characterless or questionable.

**Fix a person up, to.**

It is *colloquial* in the sense of make suitable arrangements for his or her lodgings.

**Fix up** is mainly *American* in the sense of make ready.

**Flapper.** It is *slang* in the sense of a girl who has not put her hair up.

**Flat.** It is *slang* in the sense of one easily deceived.

**Flee, Fly.**

*Fly, flew, flown. Fly* means move in the air with wings; as, Birds *fly* to long distances. *Flee, fled, fled. Flee* means run away; as, William *fled* when he saw his uncle.

**Flour** (ground grain).

**Flower** (a blossom).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Flume.** It is an *Americanism* for a channel made to convey water for industrial use.

**Foci** is the plural of *focus* and therefore must take a plural verb.

**Fogle.** It is *slang* for a handkerchief of silk.

**Foison.** It is *obsolete* for abundance.

**Folk, Folks.**

*Folk and folks* are no longer used by the educated people. *Folk* means people or peoples but

*folks* means persons. Prefer people to *folk* and persons to *folks.*

**Food** *or* **Comestibles.**

*Food* is preferable to *comestibles* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Footer.** It is *slang* for the game of football.

**Foozle.** It is *slang* for do clumsily.

**Forbid, Oppose, Veto, Antagonize.**

*Veto* means the right to reject a bill or enactment passed by a Legislative body; as, The Viceroy of India has the power of *veto. Veto* is also a verb and means to reject; as, The Viceroy can *veto* enactments of the Legislative Assembly. *Antagonize* in the sense of oppose or resist is confined to U. S. A.; as, He antagonized (opposed) the Education Bill. *Forbid* means to order not to do or to go. *Oppose* means resist or withstand; as, He *opposed* a bill, etc.

**Fordo.** It is *obsolete* in the sense of *end* or *undo.*

**Fore** (in front).

**Four** (two plus two).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Forego** (to precede in place or time).

**Forgo** (to abstain from or go without).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Formulae.**

It is the plural of *formula* and therefore must take a plural verb. Another plural of *formula* is *formulas*.

**Fortalice.** It is *obsolete* for a fortified place.

**Fortunate to** *or* **Fortunate in.**

It is *incorrect* to use an infinitive with it; as, He is *fortunate to* succeed to his uncle's property. (*Unidiomatic*). He is *fortunate in* succeeding to his uncle's property. (*Idiomatic*).

**Fortune.** See *her.*

**Fortune** is *obsolete* for happen.

**Fossick.** It is *slang* in the sense of *search of gold* and is confined to Australian mining.

**Foster.** It is *obsolete* in the sense of *support with paternal care.*

**Foul** (dirty or corrupt).

**Fowl** (a bird).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Fourth** (an ordinal numeral).

**Forth** (forward).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Fraternal** *or* **Brotherly.**

*Brotherly* is preferable to *fraternal* when the former

and the latter convey the same sense.

**Frazzle** is an *Americanism* for a wearied condition.

**Fruits** *or* **Fruit.**

It is very rarely used as plural except in such expressions; as, The *fruits* of the earth. Judge a tree by its *fruits.* He brought *fruits* from the fruiterer is wrong because standard usage in such a case requires *fruit* and not *fruits.*

**Fungi.**

It is the plural of *fungus* and therefore must take a plural verb.

**Furniture.**

It has no plural.

**Future, Subsequent.**

*Future* means time to come but *subsequent* means later on; as, Future events alone can determine my policy. Subsequent events showed that he was wrong.

**Gage** (article pledged as security).

**Gauge** (a standard measure).

They resemble in sound, but differ in meaning.

**Gamble** (to play games of chance).

**Gambol** (spring or leap joyfully).

They resemble in sound, but differ in meaning.

**Garland.** It is *obsolete* in the sense of a collection of poems.

**Gasper.** It is *slang* in the sense of a cigarette of low quality.

**Gear.** It is *obsolete* in the sense of clothes.

**Geeser** *or* **Geezer.** It is *slang* for old person.

**Gender** *or* **Sex.**

*Gender* is a grammatical term; as, Feminine, masculine or neuter *gender*. *Sex* means a male, female or hermaphrodite; as, He excellently portraits friends of the female *sex*.

**Genera.**

It is the plural of *genus* and therefore must take a plural verb.

**General** is *obsolete* in the sense of *the public.*

**Genii.**

It is the plural of *genius* and therefore must take a plural verb.

**Gent** *or* **Gents** *for* **Gentleman** *or* **Gentlemen.**

*Gents* or *gent* instead of *gentlemen* or *gentleman* is wrong and should be avoided.

**Gentle** is *slang* in the sense of gentleman or gentlemen.

**Get.**

*Get* means acquire and it is *colloquial* in the sense of possess, reach, or become; as, I have *got* a pen. (*Colloquial*). I have a pen. (*Literary*). He has *got* to go immediately. *(Colloquial)*. He has to go immediately. (*Literary*). He will be glad when

he *gets* to London. (*Colloquial*). He will be glad when he reaches London. (*Literary*). Jackson and Mary Charles *got* married. (*Colloquial*) Jackson and Mary Charles have been married. (*Literary*) Shall I *get* promoted. (*Colloquial*). Shall I be promoted. (*Literary*).

**Get him reply** *for* **Get a reply from him.**

The former is wrong and the latter is right.

**Ghostly,** (Adj.). It is *obsolete* for spiritual.

**Gift** *or* **Donation.**

*Gift* is preferable to *Donation* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Gift to** *or* **Gift of.**

It is *incorrect* to use an infinitive with it; as, He has no *gift* to fascinate the people. (*Unidiomatic*). He has no *gift* of fascinating the people. (*Idiomatic*).

**Gild** (to cover with gold slightly).

**Guild** (society having a common purpose).

They resemble in sound, but differ in meaning.

**Ginger** It is *slang* in the sense of a person with red hair.

**Give out** *or* **Announce.**

*Announce* is preferable to *give out* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Give** *or* **Extend.**

*Extend* is preferable to *give* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Give the Entrance Examination** *for* **Appear at the Entrance Examination.**

The former is *wrong* and the latter is *right.*

**Glad rags.** It is *slang* for Sunday clothes.

**Glaive.** It is *obsolete* for a spear.

**Glim.** It is *slang* for a candle or lamp.

**Glister.** It is *obsolete* in the sense of shine.

**Go the whole hog.**

It is *slang* and means to do a thing thoroughly.

**Go** *or* **Proceed.**

*Go* is preferable to *proceed* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Go, Come.**

*Go* means depart from; as, *Go* to Cambridge. He has *gone* to the cinema. *Come* means to arrive at; as, He *comes* to see me. In other words *go* means leave for a place where the person addressed is not; as, I have received a wire to *go* to Oxford. *Come* means arrive at a place where the person addressed is; as, I shall *come* to you on Monday.

**Golden.** *See* incomparable adjectives.

**Good night etc.**

*Good night, good day, good afternoon good-bye, au revoir, cherio, tata* are salutations. *Good morning, good day or good afternoon* are salutations used at meeting and *Good-bye, au revoir, cherio, tata, or good night* are salutations used at parting.

**Graduate** *or* **Be Graduated.**

*Graduate* has been used even by highly educated persons and standard writers as an intransitive verb for nearly forty-five years; as, They *graduate* or *graduated* from a university. The condemnation of this word as an intransitive verb no longer holds good. Though *to be graduated*, is *graduated*, or was *graduated* is still used in U. S. A., yet the intransitive use of this verb is commoner and better.

**Graft** is an *Americanism* for unlawful profit or commission obtained through personal influence or political power.

**Grand** is *Colloquial* for highly satisfactory.

**Grandeur** *or* **Greatness.**

*Greatness* is preferable to *grandeur* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Grant** *for* **Permit.**

*Grant* cannot be used with the infinitive. *Permit* is used with the infinitive. *Permit* means to give leave for or allow, but *grant* means to bestow; as, I *permit* my subordinates to go to the cinema once a week. I cannot grant you a pension.

**Grate** (a fire-place).
**Great** (big, distinguished).

They resemble in sound, but differ in meaning.

**Gratitude** *or* **Thanks.**

*Thanks* is preferable to *gratitude* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Gratulate.** It is *obsolete* for congratulate.

**Great** *for* **Big.**

*Big* means large or huge but *great* means emminent or distinguished.

**Grisly** (causing terror).

**Grizzly** (grey-haired).

They resemble in sound, but differ in meaning.

**Grit.** It is *Colloquial* for strength of character in facing pain or danger, courage.

**Gross.**

*Gross* when modified by a definite numeral adjective does not become *grosses* but remains as *gross*; as, Twenty gross of pencils, but when an indefinite adjective modifies it, it becomes *grosses*; as, *Many grosses* or *several grosses* of pencils.

**Grot** is poetic for cave.

**Grouse.** (See sheep.)

**Grow smaller** *or* **Become smaller.**

The latter is *right*, the former is *wrong*.

Grow means *increase* in size and therefore it cannot be used in connexion with smaller.

**Grub** is *slang* in the sense of food.

**Guess** is an *Americanism* in the sense of pretty sure.

**Gulf** is *slang* in the sense of an ordinary degree given to a candidate who fails to take honours.

**Gum** *or* **Mucilage.**

*Gum* is preferable to *mucilage* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Gust** is *obsolete* in the sense of taste.

**Habit, Custom.**

*Habit* means a settled tendency of *individuals*. *Custom* means an established usage of a *community* or a country; as, He is a drunkard. (Habit). Christians bury their dead. (Custom).

**Had ought.**

It is *incorrect* and the proper form is *ought*.

**Hail** (frozen rain drops).

**Hale** (vigorous, strong).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Hairs, Hair.**

*Hairs* when used to indicate separate or individual *hairs* is correct; as, My four *hairs* are white. When *hairs* is used in a collective sense, it is *obsolete*; as, My *hairs* are white. The correct form is my *hair* is white. He has four *hairs* on the neck is right. He has *hairs* on the neck is wrong. He has *hair* on the neck is right.

**Hale** (vb.) is *obsolete* in the sense of pull along with difficulty.

**Handful.**

See spoonful, cupful, armful.

**Handsome. Beautiful, Pretty.**

*Beautiful* is that which delights the ear or eye and that which gratifies the taste; as, A *beautiful* girl; beautiful voice. *Handsome* means good-looking (mostly used of man or boy). *Pretty* means comely (woman or child).

**Hung, Hanged.**

*Hung* means suspended. But *hanged* means executed.

*Examples* :—(1) He hung his coat on a peg. (2) He was hanged (executed) on the 20th of this month.

**Hardly** *or* **Scarcely** (See Scarcely).

**Hardly than** *or* **Hardly when** *or* **Before.**

*Than* never follows *hardly* but *when* or *before* is the proper word which follows it; as, He had hardly received the news *when* or *before* he began to cry. (*Correct*). He had *hardly* received the news *than* he began to cry. (*Incorrect*).

**Hasten** *or* **Expedite.**

*Hasten* is preferable when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Hasten, Hurry.**

*Hurry* means to go or cause to go with *excessive haste*, but *hasten* means to go or cause to go *with haste;* as, Do not *hurry*, there is plenty of

time. Why should I *hasten* over to England?

**Hate, Dislike.**

*Dislike* means not to like or to be averse to, but *hate* means to be averse to or to bear ill-will to. One generally *dislikes* whatever is disagreeable to one. One *hates* one's enemies.

*Examples* :—But I say unto (to) you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that *hate you*, and pray for them which (who) despitefully *use* you. (Bible).

He *dislikes* visitors on Monday.

**Have *for* Had.**

*Have* cannot be used when an action is completed in the past; as, They *have* done the work last evening. (*Incorrect*). They *had* done the work last evening. (*Correct*).

**He requests *your favour* of giving him leave.**

**He requests *the favour* of your giving him leave.**

The former is *unidiomatic* and the latter is *idiomatic*.

**He, You, I, *for* You, He, I.**

English usage requires that, when pronouns of different persons are used together as subjects or objects, the second person must precede the third and the first person, and that the third person must precede the first person; as, *You, he, and I* are working in the office. (*Correct*). He and I are working in the office. (*Correct*). I and he are

working in the office. (*Incorrect*). But personal pronouns, when of the plural number, demand that the first person must precede the second and third persons, and that the second person must always precede the third person; as, We, you and they were present at the meeting.

**Healthy, Healthful.**

*Healthy* means keeping or enjoying good health; as, *Healthy* person. *Healthful* means conducive to or promoting health; as, *Healthful* influence.

**Heap** is *colloquial* in the sense of a considerable number.

**Heathen.** (See sheep).

**Heave.** It is *nautical* and *colloquial* in the sense of cast or hurl.

**Hebrew, Jew, Israelite** *or* **Semite.**

An average Englishman nowadays uses the word *Jew* in the sense of *Hebrew, Israelite,* or *Semite* and prefers it to them. *Hebrew* apart from meaning a *Jew* means the language spoken by him. *Hebrew* from the historical point of view means an *Israelite*. *Jew* is applied to an *Israelite* after the exile. An *Israelite* means one descended from Jacob. *Semite* means one descended from Shem *vide* Genesis verse 21, chapter 10.

**Hectic.**

*Hectic* refers to flush in the cheeks and heat in the skin; the fever accompanying phthisis or

similar diseases. Now it has become *colloquial* in the sense of exciting or agitating.

**Height** *or* **Altitude.**

Prefer *height*, which is of Anglo-Saxon origin, to *altitude*, which comes from Latin.

**Help** is an *Americanism* for a domestic servant.

**Her** (*See* She).

**Hereabout** is *obsolete* in the sense of *about, concerning.*

**Hereafterwards** is *obsolete.*

**Hereat** is *obsolete* in the sense of *at this place.*

**Hereaway** is dialectal and *American* in the sense of *in this direction.*

**Hereby** is *obsolete* in the sense of *by* or *near this place.*

**Hereof** is *obsolete* in the sense of *from here, from this*, but it is *correct* in the sense of *of this.*

**Hereto** is *obsolete* in the sense of *to this place.*

**Herewith** is *obsolete* in the sense of *simultaneously with this.*

**Herewithal** is *obsolete.*

**Hern** *and* **Hisn.**

*Hern* is *obsolete* in the sense of *hers.*

*Hisn* is *obsolete* in the sense of *his.*

**Hest.** It is *obsolete.*

**Hew** (to cut as wood).

**Hue** (colour).

They resemble in sound, but differ in meaning.

**Hide** *or* **Conceal**.

Prefer the former whenever the latter is dispensable.

**Hide** is *colloquial* in the sense of *beat with a whip*.

**High-brow** is an *Americanism* for one who assumes airs of superior intellect or culutre.

**Him going** *or* **His going**.

*Going* is a verbal noun and therefore it must be preceded by a possessive case and not by an objective case. *Him* is the objective case and therefore it cannot precede a verbal noun. *His going* is *correct*.

*Examples* :—I dislike *him going* to London. (*Incorrect*). I dislike *his going* to London. (*Correct*).

**Hippo** is *colloquial* for hippopotamus.

**His** *instead of* **One's**.

One is followed by *one's* and not *his ;* as, One should take care of *one's* health and not *his* health.

**Hist** is poetic for hush or silence.

**Hither** *or* **Here**.

Prefer here.

**Hitherto** is *obsolete* in the sense of *up to this point*.

**Hitherward** is *obsolete* in the sense of *until now*.

**Hoard** (n. money or other valuables stored away, vb. to amass money, etc.).

**Horde** (a gang).

They resemble in sound, but differ in meaning.

**Hobo** is an *Americanism* for a tramp.

**Hold up** is an *Americanism* in the sense of *stop by force and rob.*

**Hole** (pit).

**Whole** (entire).

They resemble in sound, but differ in meaning.

**Home, House.**

*Home* means one's native land or the place where one's family has a permanent residence. *House* means a building for living in.

**Honorary, Honourable.**

*Honorary* usually means the conferring or enjoying of honour only without the requirements or the rewards commonly attaching in such cases; as, An honorary secretary; an honorary degree.

*Honourable* means worthy of honour; a distinction conferred on men holding certain Government offices; as, The Honourable Mr. Justice A. C. Clark. The Honourable Sir W. Craik. He took this honourable course.

**Hoop** (band).

**Whoop** (sound heard in whooping cough).

They resemble in sound, but differ in meaning.

**Hop** is *colloquial* in the sense of dance.

**Hope, Expect,** *and* **Anticipate.**

All look forward to something in the future.

*Expect* refers to what is desirable or undesirable; as, He expects money from his brother. I expect heavy losses in this bargain.

*Hope* refers to what directly or indirectly benefits us; as I hope to receive a handsome reward for my services.

*Anticipate* refers to what we can foretaste with confidence and pleasure or what we can realize in a bad sense and how to avert it; as, I anticipate these changes in the revenue department. I anticipate his fall from the highest office in the state and suggest measures to avert this evil.

**Hoping to be excused, Thanking you in anticipation.**

These are phrases and not sentences and therefore they cannot stand by themselves. *Hoping to be excused* is *incorrect*, because it does not convey a complete sense. Hoping to be excused, I am yours sincerely. (*Correct*). Similar is the case with thanking you in anticipation, I am yours sincerely.

**Horn mad** is *obsolete* in the sense of insane.

**Hostel** is *obsolete* in the sense of inn, etc.

**Hot stuff** is *slang* for a courageous person.

**Howbeit** is *obsolete* and is replaced by *nevertheless*.

**Howler** is *slang* for a serious mistake.

**Human, Humane.**

*Human* means of man or mankind; as, To err is human.

*Humane* means merciful, showing the best qualities of human nature; as, He has been unusually humane in all his dealings.

**Humility, Humiliation.**

*Humility* means humbleness, meekness; as, With these *humilities* he served the noble Prophet of Arabia.

*Humiliation* means act of humbling or state of being humbled; as, He subjected me to humiliation.

**Hundred.**

When modified by a definite numeral adjective, it remains *hundred*; as, Five *hundred*. It becomes *hundreds* when modified by an indefinite numeral adjective; as, Several *hundreds* or many *hundreds*.

**Hundredweight** does not become hundredweights in the plural but remains as hundredweight.

**Hydropsy** *or* **Dropsy.**

Prefer *dropsy*.

**Hunger** is *obsolete* in the sense of *famine.*

**Idlesse** is *obsolete* in the sense of quality or state of being idle.

**Ideal.** (*See* incomparable adjectives).

**Idle** (lazy or doing nothing).

**Idol** (an image of a god).

They resemble in sound, but differ in meaning.

**If I be** *for* **If I am.**

The former is replaced by the latter in the English of today.

**It were** *for* **It would be.**

The former is replaced by the latter in the English of today.

**If and when.**

*If and when* is a redundant expression and should therefore be avoided. Use either *if* or *when*; as, I shall go *if* he comes or I shall go *when* he comes.

**Ignorant, Illiterate.**

*Ignorant* means lacking knowledge; as, They are *ignorant* of the ways of the world. *Illiterate* means unable to read or write; as, He is illiterate.

**Illegible.** It is *obsolete* in the sense of *unreadable.*

**Imaginary, Imaginative.**

*Imaginary* means having no real existence; as, *Imaginary* prices or imaginary *boots.* *Imaginative* means arising from imagination; as, His *imaginative* products are defective, *i. e.*, He cannot make proper mental pictures.

**Imbibe** *or* **Drink.**

Prefer *drink* when the formei and the latter convey the same sense.

**Immanent, Imminent.**

*Immanent* means present in or inherent; as, God is *immanent. i. e.*, God is present everywhere

in the universe. *Imminent* means threatening or impending; as, Danger is *imminent* *i. e.*, impending or about to happen.

**Immerge, Emerge.**

*Emerge* means to come into view, come upon or out of liquids or crop up.

*Immerge* means to dip in a liquid or immerse.

**Imp** is *obsolete* in the sense of a boy or a girl.

**Imperious** is *obsolete* in the sense of Imperial.

**Imperative, Imperious.**

*Imperative* means obligatory, authoritative, urgent; as, It is *imperative* that I should serve my parents. *Imperious* means domineering, over-bearing, or overwhelming; as, I do not like his *imperious* attitude.

**Impregnable.** (*See* incomparable adjectives).

**Impose** is *obsolete* in the sense of place or lay on.

**Impossible.** (*See* incomparable adjectives.)

**Inasmuch as.** It should never be used in the sense of *since*; as, He is extravagant *inasmuch as* he wastes his ancestral property. (*Incorrect*). He is extravagant since he wastes his ancestral property. (*Correct*).

**Incessant.** (*See* incomparable adjectives.)

**Increase** is *obsolete* in the sense of crops or harvest.

**Inclose** *or* **Enclose.**

Though *enclose* is the preferred form yet some use inclose.

**Incomparable Adjectives.**

More or most cannot be used with the following adjectives:

Golden, wooden, round, square, faultless, childless, absolute, complete, perfect, extreme, sufficient, dead, unique, universal, unanimous, one, two, three, etc., iron, infinite, top, empty, circular, monthly, arrival, English, impossible, preferable, chief, perpetual, ideal, entire, incessant, unbounded, and impregnable.

**Indexes** *or* **Indices.**

*Indexes* means summary of contents at the end of a book. *Indices* is a sign in Algebra. Both of them are the plurals of index.

**Indict** (to accuse).

**Indite** (to compose or write).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Individual.**

*Individual* is opposed to community, class, or family, and it does not mean a single *person*; as, A state is regarded as prosperous when *every individual* composing it is prosperous.

**Induction, Deduction.**

*Deduction* means inference, conclusion, or reasoning from general principles to particular facts.

*Induction* means conclusion, inference, or reasoning from particular facts to general principles.

**Inebriate** *or* **a habitual drunkard.**

Prefer a *habitual drunkard.*

**Ineligible** *or* **Illegible.**

*Ineligible* means not fit for; as, He is *ineligible* for this post. *Illegible* means not decipherable; as, Your handwriting is *illegible.*

**Infer** *or* **Imply.**

*Infer* means accept on the basis of facts, deduce, or conclude; as, I *infer* from his attitude that he will not grant my request. *Imply* means hint, indicate, mean, or suggest; as, Baker's latest letter *implies* that he will not spend the coming summer here.

*Note:*—The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary uses *infer* in the sense of *imply.*

**Inferior.**

It is one of the seven adjectives (inferior prior, interior, posterior, junior, senior, and superior) which unlike other comparative adjectives take the preposition *to* instead of the subordinate conjunction *than*; as, He is inferior to you. (*Correct*). He is inferior than you. (*Incorrect*).

**Infinite.** (*See* incomparable adjectives).

**Inform this.**

*Inform this* is wrong because *inform* always takes a person for its object.

**In future, In the future, In the present, In present.**

*In present* is wrong and the other three are right. *At present* is also correct.

**In front of** *for* **In the presence of** *or* **Before.**

*In front* of refers to locality and not to person; as, A banian tree stood *in front of* the Shalamar Garden. *In the presence of* means before (person); as, He confessed his sins *in the presence of* a priest. He pleaded guilty *in the presence of* the judge. You must appear *before* the judge.

**Infringe on** *or* **Infringe.**

It is a transitive verb and therefore it takes an object and not a preposition after it; as, It so happens that at times the liberty of the press is exercised as licence to *infringe the rights of* groups and of individuals.

*Note* :—Professor H. C. Wyld and Mr. H. W. Fowler treat *infringe* as transitive verb, but the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary regards it as transitive and intransitive.

**Ingenuous, Ingenious.**

*Ingenious* means skilful, skilfully devised, or clever; as, Everybody thinks that Mr. Johnson is *ingenious*. *Ingenuous* means frank, candid, innocent, sincere, or free from disguise; as, He is *ingenuous*.

**Ingrate** is *obsolete* in the sense of unthankful.

**Initiate** *or* **Inaugurate.**

These two words are interchangeable in the sense of begin, commence, or originate; as, He *inaugurated* the Indian reforms. He *initiated* an inquiry about the evils of child marriage. He *initiated* a building (opened it for public use). The two words differ somewhat as follows:—

*Initiate* means to admit to a society or make intelligible its rules and principles to a person admitted to such a society; as, I shall initiate you into this society. *Inaugurate* means to admit to a great public office with pomp and ceremony; as, They *inaugurated* him as Rector of the University of Aberdeen.

**Inly** (adj.) is poetic and *obsolete* for inward.

**Innings**. It is used as singular.

**Innocent** *or* **Harmless.**

Prefer *harmless* whenever *Innocent* is dispensable.

**Inquire** *or* **Ask.**

*Inquire* means to demand or solicit information about; as, He *inquired* about my brother's health. He *inquires* about goods in a shop. *Ask* means to demand an answer to a question or solicit a favour, etc., as, I *asked* him several questions. He did not *ask* a favour of me.

**Inquire** *or* **Ask.**

Prefer ask whenever *inquire* is dispensable.

**Insensible, Senseless.** (*See* senseless).

**Insurrection.** ( *See* tumult).

**Instruct** *or* **Teach.**

Prefer *teach* whenever *instruct* is dispensable.

**In so far as.**

*In so far as* he is concerned, I am not prepared to alter my opinion about him. This phrase is so well established that every educated man uses it in spite of its having a superfluous word *in*. Those authorities who condemn this expression are not justified according to English usage.

**Insuccess** *or* **Failure.**

Prefer *failure.*

**Intelligible, Intelligent.**

*Intelligent* means quick of understanding; as, He is an *intelligent* boy. *Intelligible* means understandable or comprehensible; as, His remarks are *intelligible.*

**Intense** *for* **Intensive.**

*Intense* means existing in a high degree, ardent, or fervent; as, I admire your *intense* interest in this subject. But *intensive* means directed to a single point, subject, or area; as, He believes in *intensive* cultivation.

**In the know** is *colloquial* for having special information.

**In the neighbourhood of** *for* **About.**

*In the neighbourhood of* is a circumlucation (round about way of saying) for *about* and in this sense it should be avoided; as, He spent about £ 2,000/-. (*Correct*). He spent in the neighbourhood of two thousand pounds. (*Incorrect*).

**Intend, mean** (See purpose).

**Interstate** for *existing* or carried on between different states is an *Americanism*.

**Intentions** is *colloquial* for proposal of marriage.

**Interim** (adv.) is *obsolete* and is replaced by meanwhile.

**In, Into.**

The former means inclusion; as, in the house; *in* a safe. The latter means change from one state or condition to another; as, Come *into* the garden. Convert silver *into* gold.

**Invade, Attack.**

*Invade* a country. (*Correct*). *Attack* an army or enemy. (*Correct*). Therefore the use of *attack* instead of *invade* or *vice versa* is *incorrect*. Lord Roberts *invaded* Afghanistan. (*Correct*). Lord Roberts *attacked* Afghanistan. (*Incorrect*). Lord Roberts *attacked* the French army. (*Correct*).

**Invent, Discover.**

*Discover* means to find out what already exists; as, Columbus *discovered* America. *Invent*

means to make something new; as, Stephenson *invented* the steem-engine.

**In view to, In view of.**

*In view of* is *idiomatic* and *in view to* is *unidiomatic.*

**Invite** is *colloquial* for invitation.

**Invited guest** *or* **Guest.**

The word invited is superfluous because the word *guest* means one to whom welcome is extended either to a house or to a club. Therefore always use *guest* instead of *invited guest.*

**In, Within.**

*In* means at the *end of*; as, I shall be here *in* an hour. Within means *before the end of*; as, He will be here *within* an hour.

**Irk** is *obsolete* in the sense of fatigue or become weary.

**Irrepressible** is *colloquial* for a person who cannot be restrained.

**Irruption, Eruption.**

*Eruption* means outburst or out-break as of volcanoes, etc., *Irruption* means inroad, invasion, incursion, or violent entry; as, This irruption has caused much damage to China.

**Iron.** (*See* incomparable adjectives).

**Is belonged.**

It is wrong because *belong* being an intransitive verb cannot be used passively.

**Issue.** When it means progeny or offspring, it has no plural.

**Is Through *or* Has finished.**

The former is *colloquial*, and the latter is *literary*; as, He is *through* that book. (*Colloquial.*) He *has finished* that book. (*Literary*).

**It is me. It is us. It is him. It is them. It is her. It is thee.**

The verb *to be*, *i. e.*, am, is, are, was, were, been, takes the same case before and after it; as, *It is me.* (*Wrong*). *It is I.* (*Right*) Similarly other preceding sentences are wrong because they use the objectives *me, us, them, him, her, thee* instead of *I, we, they, he, she, and thou*. There is one exception to this rule which provides for the use of objectives *me, us, them, him, her, and thee* when the infinitive *to be* is immediately preceded by a noun or pronoun. The exception being due to the fact that the infinitive has for its subject a noun in the objective case; as, The Principal knew the thief *to be me*. Here the object thief of the verb knew is the subject of the infinitive verb *to be* and it therefore must be followed by a noun in the same case as it is preceded by.

*Note:—It is me* is *colloquially* used even by educated people but even *me* in such a case is regarded in literary language as wrong.

**It was** *for* **It were.**

*Was* after wish is wrong and the proper word is *were*; as, I wish *it were* so. In such a sentence as the foregoing it means that the wish is not fulfilled.

**Ivories** is *slang* for dice; billiard-balls.

**Ivory** *or* **Ivories** is *slang* for the teeth.

**I will be glad** *or* **I shall be glad.**

The former is *unidiomatic* and ungrammatical and the latter is *idiomatic* and grammatical.

**I will be obliged** *or* **I shall be obliged.**

Here *I will be obliged* is *incorrect* and the idiom demands the use of shall.

**I write him** *for* **I write to him.**

*I write him* is *wrong*. It should be *write to him* or *write him a letter*. In a word *write* as transitive verb should take a direct and an indirect object.

**Jam** *or* **Preserve.**

*Jam* is preferable to *preserve* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Jam** n. (preserve).

**Jamb** (side-post of a door).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Jap** is *colloquial* for a Japanese.

**Jaw** is *colloquial* for talkativeness. Hold your jaw is *colloquial* for do not talk.

**Jaw-breaker** is *colloquial* for a word consisting of sounds hard to pronounce.

**Jerry** is *slang* for a chamber-pot.

**Jew** (v) is *colloquial* in the sense of *cheat.*

**Join issue, Take issue.**

*Take issue* means to declare untrue or non-existent; as, He *takes issue* on this point. *Join issue* means to proceed to argue with a person on some point agreed upon as a basis of dispute; as, We *join issue* on this point.

**Journal.**

The use of daily, weekly, monthly, or quarterly with this word is condemned by some books on *correct* English, yet the best English usage sanctions the employment of weekly, monthly, daily with *journal.*

**Journey, March, Voyage.**

*Journey* and *march* are by land but *voyage,* by sea.

**Joyance** is poetic for cheerfulness.

**Judicious, Judicial.**

*Judicious* means wise; as, Everybody regards him as judicious. *Judicial* means relating to a judge or a court of law; as, *Judicial* proceedings.

**Junior to** *or* **Junior than.**

It is one of the seven adjectives (inferior, superior, prior, interior, posterior, junior, and senior) which unlike other adjectives take the preposition *to* instead of the subordinative conjunction *than.*

**Just now, Immediately.**

*Just now* refers to the nearest past time; as, The London-Paris Express arrived *just now*. *Immediately* refers to the nearest future time; as, The London-Paris Mail will arrive *immediately*.

**Just now, Presently.**

*Just now* is not used with verbs of the future tense; as, Baker will return home *just now*. The proper word to use is *presently*: as, Baker will return home *presently*. *Just now* should be used with *verbs of the past tense*; as, Baker returned home *just now*.

**Juvenile** *or* **Boy.**

*Boy* is preferable when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Key** (instrument for opening a lock).

**Quay** (a place where ships are loaded and unloaded).

They resemble in sound, but differ in meaning.

**Kick the bucket** is *colloquial* for die.

**Kid** is *slang* both as verb and noun in the sense of (v. t.) play a trick upon for sport; (n) fraud.

**Kind, Kindly.**

*Kind*, when it refers to persons, means well-disposed, but when it refers to actions, conduct, and so on, it means arising from or expressing kindness of feeling; as, A *kind* father; kind words

or looks. *Kindly* in reference to persons means good natured, but in reference to things it means benign; as, a *kindly* person, a *kindly* heart; a *kindly* act or smile.

**Kind of, A. a sort of,** *for* **Kind of** *or* **Sort of.**

*Kind of* and *sort of* do not take an article after them; as, What *kind or sort of man* is he? (*Correct*), What kind or sort of a man is he? (*Incorrect*).

**Kine** is *obsolete* as the plural of cow.

**Kingdom come** is *slang* for the next world.

**Kinsman, Relative,** *or* **Relation.**

*Kinsman* means a blood-relation; as, Brothers, father. *Relative* or *relation* means one related by blood or by marriage; as, Brother-in-law, son-in-law, brother. *Relation* and *relative* are interchangeable.

**Knave** (rogue or scoundral).

**Nave** (part of a church).

They resemble in sound, but differ in meaning.

**Knell** (vb.) is *obsolete* in the sense of cause to ring a bell as at death or funeral.

**Lady-help** *or* **servant.** Prefer *servant.*

**Lady-dog** *or* **Bitch.** Prefer *bitch.*

**Large** is *obsolete* in the sense of generous.

**Late, Lately.**

*Late* means after the proper or due time;

as, He often comes *late*. *Lately* means recently or not long ago; as, I have not seen him *lately*.

**Latest, Last.**

*Latest* refers to time but *last*, to position; as, His *latest* contribution to science is welcomed by one and all. I read the *last* book on marriage two months ago means that I read a number of books on marriage and that the *last* one of them was read by me two months ago. The difference between the two words is that the former is the expression of time and the latter is that of position.

**Lath** (strip of wood).

**Lathe** (a machine for shaping articles).

They resemble in sound, but differ in meaning.

**Latter, Last.**

*Latter* means the second of two things and is opposed to the former. *Last* refers to more than two things and is opposed to first.

**Lay, Lie.**

*Lie* means to be at rest or come to rest; as, I wish to lie down. *Lay* means to cause to rest; as, *Lay* this book on the table.

**Lea** (meadow).

**Lee** (the direction opposite to that from which wind blows).

They resemble in sound, but differ in meaning.

**Lead** (n. a metal).

**Led** (guided).

They resmble in sound, but differ in meaning.

**Leant** (past tense of lean).

**Lent** (a fast for forty days observed by Christ in the wilderness).

They resemble in sound, but differ in meaning.

**Learn, teach** (See *teach)*.

**Leather** is *slang* in the sense of skin.

**Leave go** *or* **Let go.**

Avoid the former because it is *unidiomatic* and use the latter which is *idiomatic*.

**Lecher** (n) is *obsolete* in the sense of an immoral man.

**Leek** (a vegitable).

**Leak** (a hole in a vessal).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Legal, Lawful.**

*Lawful* is preferable when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Legible, Illegible.**

*Legible* means easily made out; as, His handwriting is *legible*. *Illegible* means not decipherable;

as, His handwriting is *illegible.*

**Lenient** is *obsolete* in the sense of soothing or softening.

**Less, Fewer.**

*Less* means quantity but *fewer* means number; as, He gave me less barley than maize. I bought *fewer* apples than pears.

**Less, Lesser.**

*Less* means smaller and it is the comparative of little; as, Of two evils choose the *less.* *Lesser* means minor or not so great; as, The *lesser* evils of life. It is *obsolete* in the sense of a comparative of little. Now it is regarded as an adjective of positive degree.

**Lessen** (to become less, reduce).

**Lesson** (that which is taught at one time or that which is to be learnt by a pupil).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Lessen** *or* **Reduce.**

*Lessen* means to become or make less actually or apparently; as, He has *lessened* the salary of his cook. *Reduce* means to bring to a specified form or degrade; as, He has been *reduced* to proper weight. He is *reduced* in rank or position.

**Lest.** It is always followed by *should* in the English of today; as, I must work hard *lest* I should fail.

**Letter** *or* **Favour.**

*Favour* in the sense of *letter* is recognized by all the best dictionaries, but some writers prefer *letter* to it ; as, Your *favour* of the 10th instant reached me this morning. Your *letter* of the 10th instant reached me this morning. Prefer letter to favour.

**Liquor up** *or* **liquor** is *slang* in the sense of take strong drinks or liquor.

**Liberty, Freedom.**

*Liberty* commonly means *freedom* with the implication of previous restraint ; as, Slaves are set at liberty. *Freedom* means state of being free ; as, The masters of slaves have always enjoyed freedom. Freedom is preferable to liberty when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Lightening** (making light or less of weight).

**Lightning** (a flash of light).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Like** *for* **As.**

*Like* as conjunction is vulgar and *colloquial* for *as*.

*Examples* :—He cannot type rapidly like you do. (*Incorrect*). He cannot type *as* rapidly as you do. (*Correct*). Do this work like I do. (*Incorrect*). Do this work *as* I do. (*Correct*).

**Lingerie** *or* **Underclothing.**

*Lingerie* is *obsolete* and is replaced by *underclothing.*

**List** is poetic and *obsolete* for listen.

**Literally, Actually.**

*Literally* means not figuratively but *actually* means really; as, It is *literally* true. He *actually* took part in the debate.

**Literature** is *colloquial* in the sense of any printed matter such as price-lists, etc.

**Little, a little.**

*A little* is positive and means some; as, I am *a little* alarmed. Little is negative and means not much; as, He is little afraid.

**Little-go** is *colloquial* in the sense of the Previous Examination at Cambridge.

**Liver** is *obsolete* in the sense of seat of love and emotion.

**Loath** (unwilling).

**Loathe** (to dislike).

They resemble in sound, but differ in meaning.

**Locate** is confined to U. S. A. in the sense of settle in a place.

**Locality** *or* **Place.** Prefer *place.*

**Lock-out.** See strike.

**Lonely, Solitary.** (See *Solitary*).

**Long before, Long ago.**

*Long before* is not synonymous with *long ago* and therefore it cannot replace it; as, I talked to him about this matter *long before.* (*Incorrect*). I talked to him about this matter *long ago.* (*Correct*). I had been at Cambridge *long before* you. (*Correct*).

**Lore** is *obsolete* when it means instruction or learning.

**Lots, Lot.**

*Lots* or *lot* in the sense of a good or great deal or many is *colloquial* and the English usage prefers a good or a great deal or many to *lot* or *lots.*

**Love, Like.**

*Love* refers to affection; as, He loves his wife and children. *Like* refers to taste; He likes meat, apples, etc.

**Lovely, Lovable.**

*Lovable* means having qualities which endear; as, You have no lovable qualities. *Lovely* means beautiful, charming; as, She is a lovely girl.

**Lovely** is *colloquial* in the sense of delightful.

**Low, Lowly.**

*Low* means humbly; in a low condition. *Lowly* means humbly or modestly.

**Lunch, Luncheon.**

*Lunch* is *colloquial* for *Luncheon.*

**Luxurious, Luxuriant.**

*Luxurious* means given to expensive articles or habits; as, I advise people not to lead a luxurious life. *Luxuriant* means abundant (growth, pasture, etc); as, Pastures in our neighbourhood are luxuriant.

**Mad** is *colloquial* in the sense of irritated.

**Main**, is poetic for sea. Avoid it in prose.

**Maize** (Indian corn).

**Maze** (a labyrinth).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Majority.**

*Majority* means more than half, greater number or part. *Majority* when it is equal to most people takes a plural verb. The *majority* of the students like novels. The *majority* of the candidates for the degree examination fail in Mathematics. When *majority* means superiority in numbers of one group over another then it may take either a singular or a plural verb. *Majority* when it means merely greater in number, takes a singular verb; as, The Government's *majority* in the Punjab Legislative Council is so small that it with great difficulty carries out its measures. The liberal majority is certain of success in its party measures.

The Government *majority* was able to carry out its wishes.

**Make after** is *obsolete* in the sense of follow.

**Make a name** *or* **Acquire a name.**

The former is *correct* and the latter is *incorrect*; as, He has *made a name* for himself by serving his country. (*Correct*). He has *acquired a name* for himself by serving his country. (*Incorrect*).

**Make an injury to** *or* **Do an injury to.**

The former is *unidiomatic* and the latter is *idiomatic.*

**Malady** *or* **Illness**. Prefer *illness.*

**Malice** *or* **Ill will**.

Prefer *ill will* whenever *malice* is dispensable.

**Man of his words** *or* **Man of his word.**

The former is *unidiomatic*, and the latter is *idiomatic.*

**Manege** (n) is *obsolete* in the sense of bringing a horse into required physical condition by means of a course of diet and exercise.

**Man handle** is *slang* in the sense of *handle harshly.*

**Mane** (long hair on the neck of an animal).

**Main** (chief or principal).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Manner** in the sense of sort is *obsolete.*

**Mansion** (a large house).

**Mention** (to remark).

They resemble in sound, but differ in meaning.

**Mantel** (a wooden or marble structure above or round a fire-place).

**Mantle** (cloak).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Many a.** It takes a singular verb; as, *Many a* man was seen in the street. *Many an* apple tree grows in this garden.

**Many informations** *or* **Much information.**

Many *informations.* (*Incorrect*). *Information* is an abstract noun and as such it has no plural. *Many* has a distributive sense and it refers to number and not to quantity and therefore *much* should be used for *many.*

**Marvelous** (American spelling).

**Marvellous** (English spelling).

**Materialize, happen** *or* **Come to pass.**

Prefer *happen* or *come to pass.*

**Mathematic** *for* **Mathematics.**

Mathematic is *incorrect* and *Mathematics* is *correct.* It is the science of space and number and takes a singular verb.

**Mazard** is *obsolete* for head or skull.

**Me going.** According to English usage a gerund is always preceded by a possessive case

and never by an objective case. *Me* being in the objective case is wrong and therefore *my* which is of the possessive case is required with the gerund *going*; as, *my going*.

**Me seems** is *obsolete* for it seems to me.

**Mead** (a meadow).

**Meed** (recompense or reward).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Meal** *or* **Collation**. Prefer the former to the latter.

**Meat** is *obsolete* in the sense of food.

**Medal** (a metallic piece bearing an inscription to celebrate an event, a coin-like metallic device awarded for distinction).

**Meddle** (vb. to interfere with).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Media**. It is the plural of medium and *therefore* must take a plural verb.

**Medical** in the sense of a *medical* student or practitioner is *colloquial*.

**Meet** (adj. proper; vb. to come together.)

**Mete** (allot).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Meeting** *or* **Session**.

*Meeting* means a coming together for business or other purposes; as, There was a public *meeting*

at Cambridge to congratulate Mr. Jones on the assumption of office. *Session* means time during which a *meeting* or *meetings* are held; as, A session of Parliament.

**Melt**, in the sense of perspire is humerous.

**Memoranda.** It is the plural of *Memorandum* and therefore it should take a plural verb.

**Mendacity** (falsehood).

**Mendicity** (begging).

They resemble in sound, but differ in meaning.

**Metal** (a hard substance such as gold, iron).

**Mettle** (courage or endurance).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Metaphysics.** It is plural in form but it takes a singular verb. It means the science of the first principles of being and of knowledge.

**Methinks** is *obsolete* and *poetic for it seems to me.*

**Metre** (any form of poetic rhythm).

**Meter** (a measure).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Midst.** In the *midst* of us, you, or them, or in your, our, their *midst* is regarded as wrong by some but the weight of authority is in favour of the aforesaid construction.

**Miff** in the sense of a slight querrel is *colloquial.*

**Mighty** is *colloquial* in the sense of huge or very.

**Mighty** *for* **Very.**

*Mighty* is *colloquial* in the sense of *very* or *large*; as, *Mighty* tall, mighty small, or mighty large. The *literary* form is *very* tall, *very* small, or *very large.*

**(The) Military** *or* **Soldiers.**

Prefer *soldiers* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Miller** (n) is *colloquial* in the sense of a man or horse trained to run in a mile race.

**Miner** (worker in a mine).

**Minor** (one who is not a major).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Minify** *or* **Diminish.** Prefer *diminish.*

**Minish** is *obsolete.*

**Mirror** *or* **Looking-glass.** Prefer *looking-glass.*

**Miscreant** is *obsolete* in the sense of *heretical.*

**Misdeem** is *obsolete* in the sense of hold a *wrong* view or mistake for.

**Misprision,** (n) is *obsolete* in the sense of *scorn* or inability to estimate the worth of.

**Miss Jacksons** *or* **Misses Jackson.**

Both are correct. But two, three or four *Misses Jacksons* is *incorrect. Miss Jacksons* means daughters of Mr. Jackson. The *Misses Jackson* has the same meaning. In a word the plural of *Miss Jackson* and other names is formed by adding "s" to the surname; as, *Miss Jacksons* or

by pluralising the word misses without adding "s" to the surname; as, *The Misses Jackson.*

**Mistake** *instead of* **mistaken.**

I *mistake* not is ***unidiomatic*** but I *am mistaken* is *idiomatic.* He *mistakes* my meaning is quite *correct.*

**Moat** (ditch surrounding a castle).

**Mote** (particle of dust).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Mold** (American spelling).

**Mould** (English spelling).

**Monitor** is *obsolete* in the sense of a person who warns or reproves gently.

**Monkey** is *slang* for £500.

**Monthly**. (*See* incomparable adjectives).

**Moonshiner** is *American slang* for one who distils alcoholic drinks without a license.

**More cleverer.**

Avoid *more* before all adjectives of the comparative degree. Cleverer is an adjective of the comparative degree and therefore the addition of *more* to it is *incorrect.*

**Morning, Forenoon.**

Prefer *morning* whenever *forenoon* is dispensable.

**Mortal, Deadly.**

When *mortal* means *deadly* then prefer deadly to it.

**Most, Mostly.**

*Most* means in the highest or the greatest degree. *Mostly* means generally.

**Mr., Esquire.**

*Mr.* and *Esquire* cannot be used at one and the same time; as, *Mr.* H. C. William, *Esquire.* Either *Mr.* H. C. William or H. C. William, *Esquire* is *correct. Mr.* in days gone by was applicable to business men, etc., but *esquire* was applicable to graduates, members of the learned professions, gentlemen of position and members of the House of Commons but now the distinction between the two words is dropping.

**Much, More, Little, Less.**

They are adjectives but when they are used as nouns, they must take a singular verb; as, *Much* of what you say is not based on facts. *More* than a thousand years has passed since the grant of Magna Charta. *Little* more than the dates is what I remember of English history. *Less* than a thousand tons of wheat is produced by me every year.

**Mug** is *slang* in the sense of person who reads hard.

**Mugwump** is an *Americanism* for one who belongs to no political party, a great man, an employer.

**Mumps** takes a singular verb.

**Murk** *or* **Mirk** is *obsolete* in the sense of wanting in colour.

**Murrain** is *obsolete* in the sense of plague.

**Murrey** is *obsolete* for dark-red colour; of a dark-red colour.

**Muscle** (an organ made of fibres enabling bodily movements).

**Mussel** (shell fish).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Muscovite** is *obsolete* in the sense of a Russian.

**Mushroom** is *colloquial* for lady's straw hat.

**Muslin** *or* **A bit of muslin** is *colloquial* and *slang* for woman.

**Moustache** (English spelling).

**Mustache** (American spelling).

**Mutiny**. (*See* tumult).

**Mutually.** It is not followed by each other; as, They were *mutually* pleased with *each other* is wrong because *mutually* includes *each other* in its meaning.

**My dearest wife.**

It indicates more than one wife; as, A certain man wrote a letter to his wife in which he used the expression *my dearest wife* and in reply to this letter she called for an explanation concerning the meaning of *my dearest wife.* This superlative should be avoided when a man has one

wife or when he loves all his wives equally. My dearest brother or friend is right.

**Myself, Yourself, Himself, Herself, Itself, Ourselves, Themselves.**

They are reflexive and emphatic pronouns and their correct use is as follows:

Reflexive pronouns I injure *myself*. You will injure *yourself*. He injures *himself*. She injures *herself*. The cat injures *itself*. You injure *yourself*. We injure *ourselves*. They injure themselves. It is clear from the preceding sentences that the object of a verb in each case refers to the same person or thing as is indicated by the subject of each verb. Emphatic pronouns,—I *myself* saw him in London. You *yourself* did this work. She *herself* stated this fact. The cat *itself* saw the mouse. You *yourselves* are responsible for this evil deed. We *ourselves* told him to see us. They *themselves* stated that they were wrong. In the preceding sentences the pronouns emphasize the words which they qualify. No reflexive pronoun can independently stand as subject or object to a verb; as, He hurts Jackson and *myself*. (*Incorrect*). He hurts Jackson and me. (*Correct*). He and *myself* have written this book. (*Incorrect*). He and I have written this book. (*Correct*).

**Nailer** is *slang* in the sense of an expert.

**Naught** is *obsolete* in the sense of nothing.

**Nautical, Naval, Marine,** *or* **Maritime.**

*Nautical* means connected with sailors or the science of navigation or the management of vessels; as, *Nautical* training. *Naval* means of Navy, of, in, or for ships as opposed to military; as, *Naval* affairs. *Marine* means produced by, found in, or of the sea; as, *Marine* animals or *marine* insurance. *Maritime* means connected with, living, or found near the sea; as, A *maritime* nation, law, or trade.

**Near, Nearly.**

*Near* means close at hand or close by. *Nearly* means almost.

**Necessaries, Necessities.**

These two words are interchangeable in the sense of things essential to the maintenance of life.

**Necessity to** *or* **Necessity.**

It is *incorrect* to use an infinitive with it; as, He is under no *necessity to* favour me. *(Unidiomatic)*. He is under no *necessity* of favouring me. *(Idiomatic)*.

**Nee** *for* **Born.**

*Born* is applicable to man or woman but *nee* refers to a woman alone; as, He or she was born as Brown is *correct.* Mrs. Smith *nee* Brown *i. e.*, Mrs. Smith when born was given the name of Brown because it was her father's name.

**Needle, The.** *The needle* is *slang* in the sense of a fit of anger. *To get the needle* is *slang* for *to be irritated.*

**Never, Not.**

*Never* is an emphatic form and means not ever but *not* means practically no or it implies denial. These two words are not synonymous.

**New beginner, Beginner.**

The former should not be modified by *new* because it means a novice.

**Next Monday** *or* **on Monday next.**

When next precedes the name of a day, no preposition comes before it; as, Will you see me *next Monday*. But when it follows the name of a day, the preposition *on* precedes the name of a day; as, He will be here *on Monday next.*

**Nice** is *colloquial* in the sense of agreeable or pleasant.

**Nigh** is *obsolete* and is replaced by *near*.

**No, Any.** *No* cannot be used instead of any. It means not at all. *Any* means some or one. These two words are not synonymous.

**No one.** It should have singular pronouns which refer to it; as, *No one* has lost their money. (*Incorrect*). *No one* has lost his money. (*Correct*).

**No other alternative, No alternative.**

According to usage the word *other* is superfluous with *alternative;* as, He has no other *alternative.* (*Incorrect*). He has *no alternative.* (*Correct*).

**No other but, No other than.**

*No other* is followed by *than* and not by *but.*

**No sooner but, No sooner than.**

No sooner takes *than* and not *but*; as, *No sooner* had he seen his friends, than he left for Cambridge.

**No sooner when** *for* **No sooner than.**

*No sooner* takes *than* and not *when*; as, No sooner had he gone than I came and not *when* I came.

**Nocturnal, Nightly.** Prefer *nightly.*

**None** when it means a single individual, takes a singular verb; as, *None* of them is right. But when it means not any, it takes a plural verb; as, None of the members of the House of Commons have supported him.

**Not a hang** is *colloquial* for *not at all.*

**Not half** is *colloquial* for not at all.

**Not only...But also.**

They are correlative conjunctions and must precede the same parts of speech; as, He not only paid a visit to Cambridge but also to Oxford. (*Incorrect*). Here *not only* precedes the verb "paid" *but also* precedes the preposition "to" and therefore *but also* is incorrectly used. They paid a visit not *only to* Cambridge *but also* to Oxford. (*Correct*). *Not only* I *but also* other men regard this as true. (*Correct*). He was *not only* accused of the crime *but also* convicted of it. (*Correct*).

**Nothing** *or* **little** *for* **Little** *or* **nothing.**

The former is unidiomatic and the latter is idiomatic.

**Nothing like** *for* **Not nearly.**

The former should not be used for the latter; as, I am *nothing like* so tall as my brother. (*Incorrect*). I am *not nearly* so tall as my brother is. (*Correct*).

**Notorious, Famous.**

The difference between the two words is that the former is always used in a bad sense and the latter always in a good sense; as, He is *notorious* for his crime. He is *famous* for his learning.

**Nought** (nothing).

**Knot** (a tie in a rope).

**Not** (a word indicating negation).

They resemble in sound, but differ in meanings.

**Novice, Amateur, Beginner, Tiro.**

*Novice* and *tiro* mean a beginner and *amateur* means a non-professional who may or may not be equal in skill to a professional. A professional photographer and an amateur photographer differ from each other as follows:—

The *amateur* Photographer photographs people gratis. The professional photographer charges money for his work.

**Now** *for* **Now that.**

*Now* is not a subordinate conjunction. *Now that* is the correct form; as, Now that he is ill, I will act for him. (*Correct*). Now he is ill, I will act for him. (*Incorrect*).

**Nuptials. Marriage.** Prefer *marriage.*

**Nuptial ceremony** *or* **Wedding.**

Prefer *wedding* which is a *commoner* and *shorter* word.

**Nut** is *slang* in the sense of head.

**Oar** (pole for a rowing-boat).

**Ore** (mineral containing metal).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Obit** is *obsolete* for an annual service in an institution to celebrate its founder's death.

**Object to** *or* **Object of.**

It is incorrect to use an infinitive with it; as, He has no *object to* rise early. (*Unidiomatic*). He has no *object of* rising early. (*Idiomatic*).

**Oblivious** *for* **Unconscious** *or* **Unaware.**

*Oblivious* means no longer aware and not merley unaware; as, You are oblivious of the favour shown to you by your patron. *Unaware* means not knowing; as, They are *unaware* of the coming monsoon. *Unconscious* means having no knowledge of; as, She seemed *unconscious* of her generous nature.

**Obtain** *or* **Get.**

Prefer *get* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Odour** *or* **smell.** Prefer *smell.*

**Odour** (English spelling).

**Odor** (American spelling).

**Of three years old** *for* **Three years old** *or* **of Three years of age.**

*Three years old* or *of three years of age* is correct but *of three years old* is *incorrect.*

**Of course, Undoubtedly, Certainly.**

*Of course* means in the course of nature or by natural consequence; as, Your brother failed and *of course* you were sorry for his failure. *Undoubtedly* or *certainly* means doubtlessly.

**Off of** *or* **Off.**

*Off* does not take *of*; as, He took a book *off* the shelf. Milton is six miles *off* Cambridge.

**Offsprings** *for* **Offspring.**

*Offspring* has no plural. Use sons, daughters or children, etc., instead of *offsprings.*

**Oft-times.** It is *obsolete* and is replaced by *often.*

**Oft** *or* **Often.**

*Oft* is *obsolete* and is replaced by *often.*

**O. K.** *or* **All Correct, All right.**

Prefer *All correct, all right.*

**Old adage** *or* **Adage.**

Prefer *adage* because old is superfluous with adage.

**On the make** is *slang* in the sense of bent on gain or profit.

**One, two, three, etc.** (*See* incomparable adjectives).

**One...his** *or* **One...one's.**

*One* must be followed by *one's* and not by his; as, *One* should obey his teacher. (*Incorrect*) *One* should obey one's teacher. (*Correct*).

**One** (half of two).

**Won** (past tense of win).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**One** *or* **two is** *for* **One** *or* **two are.**

*One* or *two* takes *are* and not *is* because according to English usage when a singular noun or pronoun is joined to a plural noun or pronoun, the plural subject must immediately precede the verb which must be plural; as, *One* man or *two* men were seen. Mr. Jackson or his brothers go to the cinema.

**Oner** is *slang* for an extraordinary man or thing.

**Opinion, Idea.**

*Opinion* means view, belief, or conviction based on reasons falling short of proof; as, In their

*opinion* (what seems to them or what is held by them). *Idea* implies a mere conception either based on reasons or not; as, The *idea* of God. I have no *idea* of my ever having seen you.

**Opportune, Timely,** *or* **Seasonable.**

*Opportune* can be used instead of either *seasonable* or *timely*; as, Do whatever appears *opportune* to you. *Timely* means in good time or at the right time; as, He took a *timely* action; *Seasonable* means proper to the season; as, It is *seasonable* for him to go to the hills.

**Opportunity to** *or* **Opportunity of.**

It is incorrect to use an infinitive with it; as, He has no *opportunity to* join the army. (*Unidiomatic*). He has an *opportunity of* joining the army. (*Idiomatic*).

**Or** *for* **Nor.**

*Or* is the correlative of either but *nor* that of neither.

**Ordinance, Ordnance.**

*Ordinance* means a law of temporary nature to meet an emergency. *Ordnance* means cannon, artillery. They differ both in sense and in sound.

**Oriental** *or* **Eastern.**

Prefer *eastern* whenever *oriental* is dispensable.

**Origin** *or* **Beginning.** Prefer *beginning.*

**Other two, Other three, Other four,** *or* **Two others. Three others, Four others.**

*Other two, other three,* and *other four* are *incorrect,* but *two others three others,* and *four others* are *correct.*

**Otherwise.** It is an adverb and its use as noun or adjective is incorrect; as, It is not certain whether he acted wisely or *otherwise.* Here it is correctly used. You must tell me whether he is honest or *otherwise.* Here *otherwise* is used as an adjective and therefore it is incorrect. He must be satisfied of your sincerity or *otherwise.* Here it is used as a noun and therefore it is incorrect.

**Oughtest** *or* **Oughtst** is *obsolete* for ought.

**Ova.** It is the plural of *ovum* and therefore must take a plural verb.

**Over and above** *for* **More than.**

The former should not be used in the sense of the latter; as, He spent *over and above* four thousand rupees. (*Incorrect*). He spent *more than* four thousand rupees. (*Correct*).

**Pair.** (a set of two).

**Pare.** (cut down or cut away).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Pair, Two pair, Several pairs.**

*Pair*, brace, dozen, gross, head (of cattle, etc.) hundred, score, thousand, and yoke when a numeral adjective precedes them they remain singular in

form; as, *Two pair*, etc., but when an indefinite numeral adjective precedes them, they assume a plural form; as, Many pairs, *several pairs*, etc.

**Purpose, Intend, Mean.**

*Intend* means design or mean; as, They do not *intend* to obey you. Mean signifies to have in view as an aim or object, intend; as, Do you mean business. *Purpose* means intend, design; as, He does not purpose a visit to Germany. They are synonymous with one another.

**Palate** (roof of mouth).

**Pallet** (a straw-bed).

**Palette** (a tablet used by artists for mixing colours).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Pants** *or* **Pantaloons** *for* **Trousers.**

*Pants* or *pantaloons* are Americanisms but Americans rarely use them and they have been replaced by *trousers.* The English have always used the word *trousers.*

**Part and Parcel** *or* **A part and parcel.**

We cannot say *a part and parcel* but *part and parcel* according to usage.

**Partiality, One-sidedness.** Prefer *one-sidedness.*

**Party, Person.**

*Party* means a group of persons united for some purpose or cause, etc. It in the legal sense

means a *person or* group of persons. *Person* means a mere human being even in the legal sense.

*Examples*:—He is an unimportant person. He is no party to this suit.

**Past participles Derived** from **Intransitive Verbs**. The past participles of verbs when they are used as adjectives are passive in sense and therefore intransitive verbs have no participal adjectives subject to the following exceptions:—Learned, uttered, fallen, jaded, well-read, outspoken, drunken, undersigned, risen (the newly risen sun), departed.

**Pate**. It is poetic and *obsolete* for *head.*

**Paternal** *or* **Fatherly**. Prefer *fatherly.*

**Pax** is *school slang* in the sense of truce or peace.

**Pay** *or* **Emoluments**.

Prefer the former to the latter.

**Paying guest** *or* **Boarder**. Prefer *boarder*.

**Paying guest** *or* **Lodger**.

The former is formal and the latter is normal. Prefer *lodger* to *paying guest.*

**Peace** (absence of strife).

**Piece** (one of the distinct parts of which a thing is made).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Peal** (ringing of bells).

**Peel** (n. rind; vb. to strip off skin, bark, etc.)

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Pecuniary, Monetary, Financial.**

*Pecuniary* refers to that in which money is indirectly involved; as, His pecuniary circumstances deserve pity.

*Monetary* means of money, or in which money is involved; as, He is prosperous from the monetary point of view.

*Financial* refers to Government revenue, public funds, or important private transactions; as, The High Commissioner for India looks after the financial transactions of the Government of India in London.

**Pedagogics.** It means the science of teaching and is a plural, but it takes a singular verb.

**Pedal** (worked by foot).

**Peddle** (sell goods in small quantities by going from house to house).

**Paddle** (a short oar).

They resemble in sound, but differ in meaning.

**Peer** (nobleman).

**Pier** (landing-place).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Pendant** (*n.* a loose hanging ornament).

**Pendent** (*adj.* hanging).

They resemble in sound, but differ in meaning.

**Pension, Annuity, Gratuity.**

*Pension* means a periodic payment made usually to a public servant for past services. *Annuity* means a fixed sum paid yearly to a person throughout his or her life. *Gratuity* means a gift of money usually in return for past services.

**Peoples.** It is correct when it means nations; as, The *peoples* of Asia. The *peoples* is wrong when it expresses persons; as, The *peoples* of Oxford are good. The proper word to convey this sense is *people*; as, The people of Oxford are good.

**Per day, Per week, Per month, and Per year** *for* **A day, A week, A month, and A year.**

They should be either *a day, a week, a month, a year, or per diem, per mensem, and per annum. Per* is Latin and as such it should not precede day week, month, etc., which are Anglo-Saxon.

**Peradventure** is *obsolete* and is replaced by *perhaps.*

**Perchance** is *obsolete* and is replaced by *perhaps.*

**Perfect** (*see* incomparable adjectives).

**Perfection** *or* **Perfect.**

The use of *perfection* as verb is very rare. It should be *avoided* and *perfect* is the proper verb.

**Perpetual** (*see* incomparable adjectives).

**Persist to** *or* **Persist in.**

It is incorrect to use an infinitive with *persist*; as, They *persist to* finish this piece of work. (*Unidiomatic*). They *persist in* finishing this piece of work. (*Idiomatic*).

**Personality** (distinctive personal character).

**Personalty** (personal property).

They resemble in sound, but differ in meaning.

**Personate, Personify.**

*Personate* means to pretend to be or to take the character of; as, He *personated* the collector i.e., *pretended* to be a collector for fraudulent purposes. *Personify* means to give human attributes to; as, We *personify* England or Germany when we must use she or her in reference to it.

**Perspicacity, Perspicuity.**

*Perspicacity* means mental penetration, discernment, acuteness, or clear sightedness; as, I question his perspicacity. *Perspicuity* means state of being clear in expression or style; as, His writings lack *perspicuity*.

**Perspire** *or* **Sweat.** Prefer *sweat.*

**Persuade** *or* **Convince.**

*Persuade* means to induce or to allure. *Convince* means to produce a firm belief in (person).

**Peruse** *or* **Read.** Prefer *read.*

**Phenomena.** *Phenomena* is the plural of *phenomenon* and therefore it must take a plural verb.

**Phone** (*Colloquial*). **Telephone** (literary).

**Photo** (*Colloquial*). **Photograph** (literary).

**Physic, Physics.**

*Physic* means the medical profession. *Physics* means natural science in general.

**Physic** (the medical profession).

**Physique** (bodily framework and state of development).

They resemble in sound, but differ in meaning.

**Physic** *or* **Medicine**. Prefer *medicine*.

**Pi** is *school slang* for pious.

**Picket** (soldiers on police duty).

**Piquet** (a card game).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Pious** is *obsolete* in the sense of obedient or dutiful.

**Pitiful, Pitiable.**

*Pitiable* means deserving or rousing pity; as, He is in a *pitiable* condition.

*Pitiful* means full of pity; as, He is *pitiful*.

**Place** *or* **put**. Prefer *put*.

**Plane** (n. level surface, vb. to smooth).

**Plain** (clear or simple).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Play the conqueror** is *colloquial* for play the final game.

**Plum** is American for £100,000.

**Plum** (a fruit).

**Plumb** (vb. to fathom; n. a plummet).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Plurality, Majority.**

*Majority* means more than half, greater number or part; as, The Government *majority* is very large. *Plurality* means the highest of more than two numbers; as, When three candidates are standing for the Legislative Assembly of India and the first candidate obtains 8000 votes, the second, 7000 votes, and the third, 5000 votes out of 21000 votes, the first candidate is returned to the Legislative Assembly with a *plurality* of 1000 votes.

**Poesy** is poetic or *obsolete* for poetry. Avoid it in prose.

**Poetries** *or Poems.* Prefer *poems.*

**Polished, Civil,** *or* **Polite.**

*Civil* means befitting a citizen; as, He is *civil* to all whom he meets. *Polite* means courteous by nature; as, He has always been polite. *Polished* means refined or cultured; as, He is a *polished* man.

**Politician** is an *Americanism* for one who takes up politics for earning his livelihood.

**Poll** v. t. & i. is *obsolete* in the sense of to cut off the hair.

**Poll** (taking of votes at an election).

**Pole** (a long piece of metal or wood).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Ponderous** *or* **Heavy.**

Prefer *heavy* which is derived from Anglo-Saxon to *ponderous* which comes from Latin.

**Pony** is *slang* when it is equal to £ 25 or a small glass of liquor.

**Pop off** is *slang* for die.

**Popinjay** is *obsolete* in the sense of parrot.

**Portion, Part.**

*Portion* means a part reserved for some person or purpose; as, You will get your *portion. Part* means some but not all of a thing or number of things; as, He occupies a *part* of a village. He lives in that *part* of the village.

**Possessive ending is omitted.**

*Possessive ending (s) is omitted* when it precedes sake; as, *For conscience sake*, for *Jesus sake, for goodness sake.*

**Posterior.** It is one of the seven adjectives (inferior, superior, junior, senior, anterior, posterior, and prior) which unlike other comparative adjectives take the preposition *to* instead of the subordinative conjunctions *than*; as, He came posterior to (after) you.

**Potato-trap** is *slang* for mouth.

**Potent, Potential.**

*Potent* means powerful but *potential* means latent;

as, He is potent. Potential energy (latent energy. Potential has ceased to be used in the sense of potent.

**Poultry** which is a collective plural takes a plural verb.

**Power to** *or* **Power of.**

It is incorrect to use an infinitive with power; as, He has no *power to* dismiss me. (*Unidiomatic*). He has no *power of* dismissing me. (*Idiomatic*).

**Practical, Practicable.**

*Practical* relates to practice and *practicable* means feasible; as, He is a practical engineer. His arguments are practicable.

**Practice** (n. custom or exercise of an art).

**Practise** (vb. To exercise or follow a profession).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Practical, Feasible.**

*Practical* means not theoretical; as, He is a practical engineer.

*Feasible* means practically possible; as, This scheme is feasible.

**Practice to.**

It is incorrect to use an infinitive with practice; as, He has no *practice to* speak in public. (*Unidomatic*). He has no *practice of* speaking in public *Idiomatic*).

**Pram** is *colloquial* for a baby-cart; a milk man's hand-cart; perambulator.

**Pray** (to utter prayers).

**Prey** (habitually devour).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Preach** is *colloquial* for a sermon.

**Preface** *or* **Foreword**. Prefer *preface.*

**Prefer than** *for* **Prefer to.**

*Prefer* takes the preposition *to* and not the conjunction *than*; as, He *prefers* me to my brother.

**Preferable.** (*See* incomparable adjectives).

**Prejudice, Partiality.**

*Partiality* means fondness or liking; as, He has no *partiality* for his friends. *Prejudice* means prejudgment or opinion formed before-hand usually in an unfavourable sense; as, He has no *prejudice* against foreigners.

**Prepositional verb.**

When a preposition is inseparable from the verb, then according to idiom it follows the word that it governs; as, What cat and what birds, we are *speaking of.* He knows whom I am *talking about.*

**Present, Introduce.**

Introduce means to make known to equals; as, Charles is *introduced* to John by William. According to English usage a man is introduced to a

lady and not a lady to a man. A junior is introduced to a senior and not a senior to a junior. *Present* means to bring a person in the presence of sovereign, some great noble, or some high official of state for the purpose of making him known to that person; as, He was *presented* to the King.

**Preserve** *or* **Jam.** Prefer *jam*.

**Pretext to** *or* **Pretext of.**

It is *incorrect* to use an infinitive with pretext; as, He has no *pretext to* come here. (*Unidiomatic*). He has no *pretext of* coming here. (*Idiomatic*).

**Pretty** is *obsolete* in the sense of moderately large, fine, or nice.

**Prevent to** *or* **Prevent from.**

It is incorrect to use an infinitive with prevent; as, I *prevent* you *to* pay him money. (*Unidiomatic*). I prevent you from paying him money. (*Idiomatic*).

**Prevent me going.**

It is wrong. The correct form is either *prevent me from going or prevent my going.* The rule is that only a noun or pronoun in the possessive case can precede an objective case. Therefore *me* which is in the objective case is wrong.

**Preventive** *or* **Preventative.**

*Preventative* is often seen in books and newspaper articles but the authorities on English hold that *preventive* should be preferred to *preventative.*

**Previous** *or* **Previously**.

*Previously* is *incorrect* in the following sentences: I will consult you previously to deciding this matter. (*Unidiomatic*). He consulted me *previously* to acting as president. (*Unidiomatic*). He came here previously to my signing this letter. (*Unidiomatic*). I will consult you *previous* to my deciding this matter. (*Idiomatic*). He consulted me *previous* to acting as president. (*Idiomatic*). He came here previous to my signing this letter. (*Idiomatic*).

**Prevision** *or* **Foresight**. Prefer *foresight*.

**Price** is *obsolete* in the sense of worth or value.

**Priceless, Valueless, Invaluable**.

*Priceless* and *Invaluable* mean what cannot be valued. According to The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary priceless also means worthless. *Valueless* means worthless.

**Principal** (chief or highest in rank).

**Principle** (a primary element or a rule as a guide to action).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Print** is an *Americanism* for a newspaper ; pamphlet.

**Prior to**.

It is one of the seven adjectives (inferior, prior, anterior, posterior, senior, junior and superior) which unlike other comparative adjectives take the pre-

position *to* instead of the subordinative conjunction *than.*

**Prithee** is *obsolete* for I pray thee.

**Privilege to** *or* **Privilege of.**

It is incorrect to use an infinitive with it ; as He has no *privilege to* wait on or upon the king *(Unidiomatic).* He has no *privilege of* waiting on or upon the king. (*Idiomatic*).

**Privy** is *obsolete* in the sense of secrecy.

**Problem, Problemetical.**

*Problem* means a difficult or doubtful question for solution. *Problemetical* means questionable, doubtful, uncertain or not evident. Problem is a noun and problemetical is an adjective ; as, Unemployment is the principal problem of today. His success is problemetical.

**Proceed** *or* **Go.** Prefer *go* whenever proceed is dispensable.

**Proclivity** *or* **Tendency**. Prefer *tendency* which is commoner word.

**Profit** (gain).

**Prophet** (one who predicts or foretells).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Prog** *or* **Proggings** is *slang* for a proctor at Oxford or Cambridge.

**Prohibit to** *or* **Prohibit from.**

It is incorrect to use an infinitive with *prohibit* ; as,

I *prohibit* you *to* call on me. (*Unidiomatic*). I *prohibit* you *from* calling on me. (*Idiomatic*).

**Prominence, Predominance.**

*Prominence* means conspicuity or distinction. *Predominance* means superiority in strength, influence, or number.

*Examples* :—Everybody recognizes his prominence. Nobody can question his predominance.

**Promulge** is *obsolete* for *publish* or *proclaim.*

**Prophesy, Predict,** *or* **Foretell.**

Prefer *predict* or *foretell.*

**Proposition** is *obsolete* in the sense of a problem.

**Protagonist** *or* **Chief protagonist.**

*Protagonist* means a chief actor but owing to misconception of its meaning by journalists and others it has been misused in the sense of a leading person, champion or defender, etc. Now it is practically impossible to check its wrong use in this sense. The use of words like *chief* with *protagonist* is illogical and ungrammatical because it includes the word chief in itself.

**Protest.**

*Protest* means dissent or disapproval. It takes the preposition *against*; as, He protested against the resolution or treatment. It also means a written declaration by a Notary Public; as, The bill has been duly presented and protested.

**Proven**. It is *obsolete* and is replaced by proved.

**Providing instead of Provided** *or* **Provided that.**

*Providing* cannot be used instead of *provided* or *provided that.* Providing means making provision; as, I have been a dutiful son providing in every way for the comfort of my father. Provided or provided that is used as conjunction; as, I can lend you five thousand pounds provided that you agree to my terms.

**Pub** (n) is *colloquial* for a public house.

**Pudge.** is *colloquial* for a short and thick person.

**Punjab** *for* **the Punjab.**

Punjab is wrong. It must have the definite article before it; as, *The Punjab.* See articles.

**Punk** is *obsolete* for prostitute.

**Purchase** *or* **Buy.**

Prefer *buy* whenever *purchase* is dispensable.

**Purpose** *or* **Propose.**

*Propose* means to place for one's own consideration or for that of others; as, I propose Mr. Williams for presidency of the Hudson club. The scheme I propose to myself is paying. *Purpose* means design, intend; as; Why do you purpose acting thus. I purpose no harm to him.

**Purpose to** *or* **Purpose of.**

It is *incorrect* to use an infinitive with purpose; as, He has no *purpose to* insult me. (*Unidiomatic*). He has no *purpose of* insulting me. (*Idiomatic*).

**Push Bike** is *slang* for a bicycle. Bike (*colloquial*). Bicycle (literary).

**Put away** is *obsolete* in the sense of dissolve marriage.

**Put on** *or* **Don.**

Prefer the former to the latter.

**Put a thing to test** or **Put a thing to the test.**

He *puts a thing to test.* (*Unidiomatic*). He *puts a thing to the test.* (*Idiomatic*).

**Put the opportunity to account** *or* **Turn the opportunity to account.**

He *puts the opportunity to account.* (*Unidiomatic*). He *turns the opportunity* to account. (*Idiomatic*).

**Pyrotechnic display** *or* **Fireworks.**

Prefer *fireworks* which is commoner and shorter.

**Quantity instead of Number.**

*Quantity* is that which can be measured but *number* is that which can be counted; as, I have a large quantity of wheat, sugar, and tea in stock. I sell a large *number* of books, copies, and diaries every day. I sold a large quantity of books. (*Incorrect*). I have a number of sugar. (*Incorrect*). Therefore they are not interchangeable.

**Quarter, Quarters.**

*Quarter* means locality, direction; as, He lives in that quarter of the city. *Quarters* means lodgings.

**Quicken** *or* **Brisken**. Always prefer *quicken*.

**Quickly, Soon.**

*Quickly* means rapidly but *soon* means without delay; as, It is moving quickly. He will come soon.

**Quid** is *slang* in the sense of a gold coin of £1.

**Quite, Very.**

*Quite* means perfectly, wholly, entirely, or completely; as, He is quite well. He is quite harmless. *Very* means in a high degree or exceedingly; as, He is very much better today. (*Correct*). He is quite better today. (*Incorrect*).

**Quieten** *for* **Quiet**.

There is no such word in English as *quieten*. *Quiet* means to reduce to calmness or quietness; to become *quiet* or calm; as, He *quieted* about the matter. He quieted for want of information.

**Quilt** (vb) is *slang* in the sense of *beat*.

**Quod** is *slang* in the sense of prison.

**Radii.** It is the plural of *radius* and therefore must take a plural verb.

**Rag** (vb) is *slang* in the sense of find fault noisily, rebuke, tease; (university slang) to disarrange as an undergraduate's room by way of a practical joke

**Raise children** *for* **Bring up** *or* **Foster children**.

*Raise* in the sense of *bring up* or *foster children* is wrong, because *raise* in this sense is confined to

crops, vegetables, or cattle; as, We *raise* our own vegetables.

**Raise** (to lift).

**Raze** (to destroy or pull down).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Rapid** *or* **Swift.** Prefer *swift.*

**Rarely** *or* **ever** *for* **Rarely if ever** *or* **Rarely** *or* **Never.**

*Rarely or ever* is *unidiomatic* but *rarely if ever* or *rarely or never* is *idiomatic*; as, He *rarely or never* comes here. He *rarely if ever* comes here.

**Rather than, Had as soon, Had better, Had rather** *or* **Would rather, Would sooner, Would better, and Would as soon.**

*Rather* is the comparative of rath which is *obsolete.* It takes *than* after it; as, He will come here *rather than* stay away. *Had as soon, had better, had rather* are used in subjunctive constructions. Though these expressions are grammatically wrong yet they are regarded idiomatically right by all the authorities on English. All writers prefer them to *would rather, would sooner, would better* and *would as soon*; as, He *had rather* come here. (*Idiomatic*). He *would rather* come here. (*Unidiomatic*). He *had sooner* go than stay. *(Idiomatic)*. He *would sooner go than* stay here. (*Unidiomatic*). He *had better* wait than go. (*Idiomatic*). He *would better* wait here *than* go.

(*Unidiomatic*). He *had as soon* go as walk. (*Idiomatic*). He *would as soon go as* walk. (*Unidiomatic*).

**Reach at** *for* **Reach.**

*Reach* is a transitive verb and never takes a preposition after it.

**Read** *or* **Peruse.**

*Peruse* means to read carefully, attentively, or thoroughly. Prefer read.

**Ready** is *slang* in the sense of cash.

**Real** *or* **Veritable.**

*Real* is preferable to *veritable* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Reason because** *instead of* **Reason why** *or* **Reason that.**

*Because* means for the reason and therefore *reason because* is *incorrect*. *Reason why* I gave him rupees five, is that he helped me much. (*Correct*). I do not know the *reason that* led him to give me rupees five. (*Correct*).

**Rebellion.** (*See* tumult).

**Recourse, Resource (now usually resources).**

*Recourse* means resort to a person or some object for help; as, He has recourse to bankers. *Resource* (now usually *resources*) means something available as help, pecuniary means, natural advantages; as, What is your last resource? I admit that his resources are unlimited. The resources of India are unlimited.

**Recreation** *or* **Amusement.** Prefer *amusement.*

**Recuperate** *or* **Recover.** Prefer *recover.*

**Ridicule** (n) is *obsolete* in the sense of object of mocking, quality of being ridiculous.

**Refuse that** *or* **Deny that.**

*Refuse* according to idiom is followed by *to* and not *that*; as, He *refused to* accompany me. *Deny* is always followed by *that*; as, He *denied that* he was wrong.

**Regal, Royal,** *or* **Kingly.** Prefer *kingly.*

**Relax, Relent.**

*Relax* means to grow less energetic or zealous, abate or slacken; as, He *relaxed* his activities. (*Correct*). He *relented* his activities. (*Incorrect*). *Relent* means to be compassionate; as, He *relents* towards people. Though *relent* is used in the sense of *relax* in the dictionaries which record this sense as secondary yet it (*relent*) should not be used in the place of *relax.*

**Reliable** *or* **Trustworthy.** Prefer *trustworthy.*

**Remark** *or* **Say.** Prefer *say* when the former and the latrer convey the same sense

**Remember, Recollect.**

*Remember* means to have in the memory or not to have forgotten; as, I remember your name. *Recollect* means to call to mind with effort or difficulty; as, I cannot *recollect* your name.

**Remainder, Balance.**

*Remainder* means residue or the rest. *Balance* means difference between a credit and a debit statement. *Balance* should never be used in the sense of *remainder;* as, I spent the *remainder* of the day in visiting friends. (*Correct*). I spent the *balance* of the day in visiting friends. *(Incorrect)*.

**Remissness to** *or* **Remissness for.**

It is *incorrect* to use an infinitive with remissness; as, His *remissness to* account for the delay is serious. (*Unidiomatic*). His *remissness for* accounting for the delay is serious. (*Idiomatic*).

**Remote** *or* **Distant.**

*Distant* is opposed to near but *remote* is opposed to immediate; as, A *distant* relation, a *distant* period of history. The moon is about 360000 miles *distant* from the earth. *Remote* ancestors. The *accident* was the *remote* (not the *distant*) cause of his death. *Distant* may mean far off. *Remote* may mean difficult to reach, inconvenient, or solitary.

**Remove** *or* **Take away.** Prefer *take away* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Render** in the sense of *return* is *obsolete*.

**Rep** is school boy's *slang* for repetition.

**Reply, Answer.**

*Answer* refers to a question; as, He *answered* all the questions set in the examination. *Reply* refers to more thought and intelligence; as, He

gave an elaborate *reply* to all the charges or arguments advanced against his client. One *replies* to a letter, charge, or arguments, etc., but *answers* questions. Answer also means the counter statement made in reply to complainants bill of charges. In a word *reply* is more *formal* than *answer*. *Answers* can be given directly but *replies* require careful thought.

**Reputation, Character.**

*Character* means what one is and nobody can injure it. *Reputation* is what people 'think of one and it may be injured by others.

**Resemble, Resemble to.**

It is a transitive verb and therefore it takes an object and not a preposition; as, He *resembles* his brother. (*Correct*). He resembles to his brother. (*Incorrect*).

**Resemble, Compare.**

*Resemble* means to be similar to or like another in features or appearance; as, Johnson *resembled* his father in appearance. *Compare* means to estimate by comparison; as, Napolean was *compared* to a lion.

**Reservation** is an *Americanism* in the sense of tract of land set apart for a native tribe.

**Residence** *or* **House.** Prefer *house* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Residence, House, Home.**

*Home* means one's mother country or a dwelling place in which members of one's family permanently live. It means a dwelling place to which people return after retirement from business, service, etc., for spending the evening of life. *A house* means merely a building in which one lives. *Residence* means a magnificent building where one lives. It is also used in the general sense; as, During his *residence* in London or Cambridge. *Home*, *house*, and *residence* differ from one another as follows:

*Home* means that building or place in which one's parents and other members of one's family live permanently. *House* means a building which one occupies with or without one's family usually temporarily. *Residence* means a large house like a mansion which may be one's own or which may be hired by one on a heavy rent.

**Resign from *or* Resign.**

*Resign* is a transitive verb and therefore must take an object and not the preposition *from*; as, He *resigned* his post. (*Idiomatic*). He *resigned from* his post. (*Unidiomatic*).

**Respect *or* Respects.**

*Respect* means regard or esteem. *Respects* means compliments.

**Respectable, Respected, Respectful, Venerable**

*Respectable* means deserving respect; as, He is

not a respectable man. *Respected* means regarded with respect or deference; as, Respected Sir. *Respectful* means showing respect or deference; as, He is respectful to his parents. *Venerable* means worthy of being honoured or respected; as, He is a venerable person.

**Respective, Respectively.**

*Respective* means pertaining severally to each; as, Why should you tell me your opinion of the *respective* merits of the candidates.

*Respectively* means in a respective manner; as, He has discussed the virtues of three men respectively.

**Rest** (repose).

**Wrest** (to take by force).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Retire** *or* **Go to bed.** Prefer *go to bed.*

**Return, Returns.**

*Return* means coming back; as, On his *return* from Berlin he paid me £3. *Returns* means statistics; as, The latest returns show a large deficit.

**Return back** *or* **Retreat back** *for* **Return** *or* **Retreat.**

*Return* means to come or go back. *Retreat* means to retire, relinquish, or go back. *Retreat* and *return* embrace the sense of *back* and therefore the word *back* is superfluous.

**Reverend, Reverent.**

*Reverend* means deserving deep respect; as, The *Reverend* C. Smith. *Reverent* means feeling or showing deep respect; as, He is reverent to all his teachers.

**Reverend, Honourable.**

The words *reverend* and *honourable* are preceded by the article *the* and are followed by either a Christian name and surname or Mr. and surname; as, The *Reverend* Charles Smith or the *Reverend* Mr. Smith; The *Honourable* Percy Smith or the *Honourable* Mr. Smith; the *Honourable* Smith or the *Reverend* Smith is *incorrect*.

**Reverse** *or* **Converse.**

*Converse* means a reciprocal relation between two opposites. *Reverse* means contrary; as, They had learning without wealth and the *converse* of it is that they had wealth without learning. William's behaviour was the very *reverse* of rude (polite).

**Revolt.** *(See* tumult).

**Revolute,** (v. i.) is *slang* for take part in a political revolution.

**Revolution.** (*See* tumult).

**Rhino** is *slang* for money, but it is *colloquial* for Rhinoceros.

**Rhyme** (agreement of terminal sounds in verse-lines).

**Rime** (hoar-frost).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Rice and curry are my food** *or* **Rice and curry is my food.**

The former is *unidiomatic* and the latter is *idiomatic*.

**Ride, Drive.**

One *drives* in a carriage or motor-car, etc., which belongs to one. One *rides* on an animal, bicycle, a public conveyance, or in a train.

**Right** (just or true).

**Rite** (observance or ceremony).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Right to** *or* **Right in.**

It is *incorrect* to use an infinitive with right; as, He has no *right to* insult me. (*Unidiomatic*). He has no *right in* insulting me. (*Idiomatic*).

**Righten** is *obsolete* in the sense of *make right*.

**Ring** (to sound).

**Wring** (to twist).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Rise equal to** *or* **Rise to.**

*Rise equal to* is *incorrect* and the *correct* form is *rise to*; as, He *rises to* an occasion.

**Rising.** (*See* tumult).

**Road** (a main way or route).

**Rode** (past tense of ride).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Rock-bottom** is *colloquial* for lowest; as, Your prices are not *rock-bottom*.

**Riot**. (*See* tumult).

**Rood** is *obsolete* in the sense of the Cross.

**Room** *or* **Accommodation**.

Prefer room when accommodation is identical in meaning with it.

**Room's.**

Inanimate (lifeless) objects when expressing possession do not take apostrophe and s and therefore the *room's* height, breadth, and length are *incorrect*. The proper form is the height, length, and breadth of a room. The tree's top is an *incorrect* phrase and use the top of the tree which is correct.

**Rooster.**

*Rooster* in the sense of cock is *dialectal* and *American*.

**Rope in** is *colloquial* in the sense of *close in with a rope*.

**Rotten** is *slang* in the sense of bad.

**Rotter** is *slang* in the sense of a worthless person.

**Round**. (*See* icomparable adjectives).

**Row** is *colloquial* for a noisy quarrel, tumult.

**A Royal King** *for* **A King.**

Royal cannot modify King as King embraces the sense of Royal.

**Rue** is *obsolete* in the sense of sorrow for sins.

**Ruth** is *obsolete* for pity.

**Salary, Wages, Pay, Remuneration, Honorarium, Perquisite, Emolument.**

*Salary* is fixed payment made periodically to other than manual workers. *Wages* means a payment usually made daily or weekly to labourers and domestic servants. *Pay* is interchangeable with salary or wages. *Remuneration* means a payment for services. *Honorarium* means a fee payable to a professional man for services, also an allowance payable to an honorary worker. *Perquisite* means any casual payment in addition to salary or wages; as, Remains of the daily food are among the perquisites of college scouts or Jips. *Emolument* is interchangeable with remuneration.

**Sale** (the selling of an article, etc.).

**Sail** (sheet of canvas to resist wind).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Salmon** (*See* sheep).

**Sam** is school *slang* for to pay for refreshments or drinks offered to friends.

**Same** *or* **The same.**

It is an *incorrect* substitute for the *aforesaid* person or thing and therefore it should be avoided; as, I have received your letter of the 14th instant and I thank you for the same. (*Incorrect*). I have received your letter of the 14th instant and thank you for *it*. (*Correct*).

**Same, Similar.**

*Similar* refers to likeness or resemblance; as, This coat is *similar* to that. *Same* refers to identity or sameness; as, He is the *same* man.

**Same as, Same that.**

*Same* when not followed by a relative clause, takes *as* after it; as, Meet me day after tomorrow in the *same* place *as* yesterday. Give the client the *same* advice *as* last time. When *same* is followed by a relative clause it may take *that or as* after it; as, The school flag was pulled down the *same* night *that* it was hoisted. This is the *same* book *as* we read yesterday.

Some authorities on English maintain that the use of *that* after *same* is *unidiomatic*.

**Sanatorium** *or* **Sanatarium, Sanitarium**

*Sanatorium* means a hospital for convalescents and consumptives usually in a healthy locality. *Sanatarium* is erroneous for *Sanitorium*. *Sanitarium* is an *Americanism*.

**Sanatory, Sanitary.**

*Sanatory* means of or relating to curing; as, It

is *sanatory* to live in the hills. *Sanitary* means relating to or concerned with sanitation; as, The sanitary conditions of this town are unsatisfactory.

**Satisfaction to** *or* **Satisfaction in.**

It is incorrect to use an infinitive with satisfaction; as, He gets no *satisfaction to* play cricket. (*Uuidiomatic*). He gets no *satisfaction in* playing cricket. (*Idiomatic*).

**Save**. It is *obsolete* as preposition and it is replaced by *except*. As conjunction it is also *obsolete* and is replaced by *unless*.

**Says I**. It is wrong and the proper from is *said I*.

**Scarce** is *obsolete* in the sense of hardly.

**Scarcely than** *or* **Scarcely when** *or* **Before.**

*Scarcely* is never followed by *than* but *before* or *when*; as, *Scarcely* had he left the office *than* I arrived. (*Incorrect*). *Scarcely* had he left the office *when* I arrived. (*Correct*). He had scarcely been two minutes in the house before his father came in. (*Correct*).

**Scene** (view).

**Seen** (beheld).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Scenery, Sight, Panorama, Appearance.**

*Scenery* means stage scenes; the natural features of a district; as, I like this scenery. *Sight* means

thing seen particularly of a remarkable nature, spectacle; faculty of seeing; as, Pleasant or beautiful sight. Long or short sight. *Appearance* means the condition in which a thing appears; aspect, look; as, He has a very poor appearance.

**Sceneries** *or* **Scenes.** Prefer *Scenes. Scenery* has no plural.

**Scent** (fragrance).

**Sent** (told to go or despatched).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Scholar** *or* **Boy.**

*Boy* is preferable to scholar when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Score, Scores.**

When a definite numeral adjective precedes *score*, it remains singular in form; as, *Five score* of dog.

**Scotch** is *obsolete* for wound.

**Scruple** *to* *or* **Scruple in.**

It is incorrect to use an infinitive with scruple; as, He has no *scruple to* tell lies. (*Unidiomatic*). He has no *scruple in* telling lies. (*Idiomatic*).

**Scull** (a small oar).

**Skull** (the bones of the head).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Scullion** is *obsolete* for one who cleans kitchen utensils.

**Sculp** (v. t.) is *colloquial* for sculpture.

**Sea** (ocean, a vast body of salt water).

**See** (to look at).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Seam** (a line where two edges are joined).

**Seem** (to appear to be).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Secreting** *or* **Secretion.**

*Secreting* means hiding or concealing. *Secretion* means the process of separating special substances from blood.

**Secure, Procure,** *or* **Obtain.**

Usage warrants that preference should be given to obtain; as, He obtained (and not *procured* or *secured*) the first prize in the Matriculation Examination of London University.

**Sedition,** (*See* tumult).

**Seek** *or* **Look for.**

*Look for* is preferable to *seek* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Seem, Appear.**

*Appear* means to become visible or evident, or come in sight ; as, The sun *appears* dark through the clouds. *Seem* means to appear like or to

have the likeness; as, This proposal *seems* fair.

**Seldom** *or* **Ever** *for* **Seldom if ever** *or* **Seldom** *or* **Never.**

*Seldom or ever* is *unidiomatic* and *Seldom if ever* or *seldom or never* is *idiomatic.*

**Semblable** is *obsolete* for like.

**Send for** *or* **Summon.**

*Send for* is preferable to *summon* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Send off** *or* **Dispatch.**

*Send off* is preferable to *dispatch* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Senseless, Insensible.**

*Senseless* means unconcious; wanting in good sense and judgment; as, He is a senseless person. Your actions are senseless. *Insensible* means void of feeling; as, He is insensible to my request.

**Sensible, Sensitive.**

*Sensible* means having good sense or intellect; as, He is very sensible. *Sensitive* means quick to feel, easily affected; as, I know that he is very sensitive.

**Sensual, Sensuous.**

*Sensual* means given to sexual desires; as, You should abstain from sensual desires. *Sensuous* relates to, derived from, or affecting the senses; as, He is a *sensuous* writer.

**Sentence** is *obsolete* when it is equal to an opinion or a short saying.

**Serviette** *or* **Napkin.**

Prefer *Napkin* to *Serviette.*

**Sequel, Sequence.**

*Sequel* is *obsolete* in the sense of *sequence* and now means a consequence, result, or effect; what follows as a result or course of action; as, You can see sequel of such a speech. *Sequence* is *obsolete* in the sense of conclusion and now means series or an order in which events occur, or succeed each other; the principle which regulates the tenses of a subordinate clause in accordance with those of a principal clause; as, He can perfectly trace the sequence of those events. I know that he would come.

**Servitor** is *obsolete* for a man-servant or an attendant.

**Servility, Servitude.**

*Servility* means state or quality of being slavish or servile; as, I hate the attitude of servility. *Servitude* means state of a slave with special reference to excessive labour; as, How horrible is it to be in a state of servitude.

**Severe, Acute, Chronic.**

*Severe* means attended with violence or intensity; as, Severe illness, a severe attack of cold. *Acute* means severe, not *chronic*; as, I think that

he is suffering from acute gonorrhoea. Chronic means of long standing; more or less permanent; as, He is suffering from chronic constipation.

**Sewage, Sewerage.**

*Sewage* means waste-matter conveyed through sewers or covered drains. *Sewerage* means a system of sewers or covered drains through which such waste-matter is drained or conveyed.

**Shade, Shadow, Umbrage.**

*Shade* is *poetic* in the sense of shadow and now means darker part, that which protects from the sun, glass cover for lamp, candle, etc.; as, This tree has a fine shade. This tree provides a shade for twenty people. Put a shade on this lamp. *Shadow* means a bit of shade produced by the intervention of some particular object between an illuminated surface and light; as, The *shadow* of a cat.

**Shall, Will, Should, Would.**

*Shall* in the first person and *will* in the second and third persons mean simple futurity; as, I *shall* write. You *will* write. They *will* write. *Should* as past tense of *shall* in the first person and *would* as past tense of *will* in the second and third persons mean simple futurity; as, I told him that I *should* leave for Calcutta. I said that he or you *would* come. *Shall* in the second and third persons signifies a threat, promise, command, determination, or cer-

tainty. Shall in interrogative sentences:

*Shall* in the first person merely inquires what the speaker *should* do; as, *Shall* I read aloud means a mere inquiry from a person addressed whether he wishes the speaker to read aloud. In the second person it means simple futurity. *Shall* you leave for Calcutta. It in the third person signifies a desire or command from the person spoken to. *Shall* he study French means whether the person speaking desires or commands him to study French. *Should* in interrogative sentences in the first, second, and third persons has the same meaning. *Will* in the first person denotes willingness or promise, determination or intention; as, I *will* lend you a book. I *will* soon leave for Calcutta. I will not do it. (Determination).

*Will* in the interrogative sentences is not used in the first person. *Will* in the second person finds out the wish of the person addressed; as, *Will* you lend me a book means do you wish to lend me a book. *Will* in the third person denotes mere futurity; as, *Will* he go to Calcutta. *Would* as past tense of will in interrogative sentences has the same meaning as its present tense *will*. *Shall* in the interrogative sentences requires *shall* in an answer to it; as, *Shall* he go? He *shall* go. *Shall* you go? I shall go. *Will* also requires *will* in the answer to an interrogative

sentence; as *Will* he go? He *will* go. *Will* you go? I *will* go. Similar is the case with *should* and *would* in interrogative sentences. Independent senses of *should* and *would*. *Should* signifies propriety in the first, second, and third persons; as, I know that I *should* work hard. (propriety). You *should* not work so hard for the examination. He *should* not take long walks. It also means a design or uncontrollable condition in the first person; as, If I were to go to Germany. I *should* study German. If I were to eat much, I *should* fall ill. *Would* means custom or willingness in all persons and determination in the first person. I *Would* give you £5 if I *could*. (Willingness). When I was young, I *would* study History for hours. (Habit). When he was young, he *would* study history for hours. (Habit). When you were young, you *would* study history for hours. (Habit).

**Shan't.** (*Colloquial*). **Shall not.** (*Literary*).

**She.**

This pronoun is commonly applied to personified objects remarkable for beauty, gentleness, and gracefulness; as, The Earth, the Church, the Moon, the Soul, the Arts and Sciences, Religion, Spring, Nature, Liberty, Justice, Mercy, Peace, Hope, Charity, Victory, Fame, Fortune, Balloon, Cannon, Countries, and Cities.

**He.** This pronoun is commonly applied to personified objects remarkable for strength and violence; as, The Sun, the Grave, Autumn, Summer, Winter, Time, Death, Thunder, Winds, Rivers, Mountains, Love, Fear, Anger, Despair, Murder, War.

**Shear** (to clip wool, etc.).

**Sheer** (absolute or without any modifying condition).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Sheep, Deer, Swine, Grouse, Teal, Heathen, Cod, Trout, Soot.** They are words which have the same form for both singular and plural.

**Should, Ought.**

*Ought* refers to duty or obligation but *should* refers to propriety. *Ought* is followed by *to* and *should* is not; as, I *ought* to pay him five pounds. I *should* pay him five pounds. (Propriety).

**Show** *or* **Evince.**

*Show* is preferable to *evince* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Shut** *or* **Close.**

*Shut* is preferable to *close*.

**Shut up** is *colloquial* for *be silent*.

**Sight** (the faculty of seeing).

**Site** (situation).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Significance, Signification.**

*Significance* and *signification* are interchangeable in the sense of *meaning*, but the former differs from the latter in the sense of importance, weight, consequence; as, He is regarded as a person of significane. I think this matter is of very great significance. Do you know the signification or significance of this word.

**Silvern** is *obsolete* and *poetic* for made of silver.

**Similar** *or* **Alike.**

*Alike* is preferable to *similar* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Simply, Merely.**

*Merely* means without addition; as, I merely told him not to see me. *Simply* means without complication; as, This machine is simply constructed.

**Since.**

*Since* as preposition means from. It precedes a noun or phrase meaning some point of time; as, Saturday, Thursday, 9 A. M., afternoon, morning, etc. and never a noun or phrase meaning a period of time; as, Three hours, five days, two years, two weeks, etc. A verb in the present perfect tense always precedes it; as, I have not seen him since last Saturday.

*Since* as conjunction means from which time. It a noun or phrase signifying a period

of time and never a noun or phrase meaning a point of time. A verb in the past indefinite tense follows it; as, It is two months *since* he left for London. A month has passed *since* I saw him. *Since* as conjunction also means because; as, *Since* he wishes it, it will be done.

*Since* as adverb means ago. It precedes a noun or phrase signifying a period of time and never a noun or phrase indicating a point of time. A verb in the past indefinite, the present perfect, or the past perfect tense always precedes it. It follows the word which it modifies; as, My father left for Calcutta two months *since*. He and I were up at college, but I have not seen him *since*. He said that he had not seen him *since*.

**Since** *or* **For.**

*Since* denotes a point of time and *for* a period of time; as, He has been ill *since* four days. (*Incorrect*). He has been ill for four days. (*Correct*).

**Sink, Drown.**

Ships *sink* but men and animals either *sink* or are *drowned*.

**Sire** in the sense of father or forefather is *poetic* and *archaic*.

**Situated, Situate.**

*Situated* is not derived from any verb and some writers prefer *situate* to it, but now the two words are used indiscriminately.

**Slavey** is *colloquial* and *slang* for a young servant girl especially in lodgings.

**Sleight** (dexterity of hand, trick).

**Slight** (slender, inadequate, or trivial).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Slop** is *slang* in the sense of a policeman.

**Smite** is *poetic* for strike. Avoid it in prose.

**Sneak** (vb.) is *slang* in the sense of steal.

**Snob** is *obsolete* in the sense of a person of low birth.

**So...as; As...as.**

*So* follows *as* when unequals are compared; as, He is not so fat as you are.

*As* is followed by *as* when equals are compared; as, He is as fat as you are.

**So long** *for* **So far.**

*So far* refers to extent; but *so long* refers to time; as, You are *so far* right. Please write to me regularly *so long* you remain in England.

**Soar** (to rise high).

**Sore** (injury to skin).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Social** *or* **Sociable.**

*Sociable* means quick to mix with others, ready for companionship, or fitted for society. *Social* means

living in society, communities, commonwealth, or the relation of persons in communities or society. Some persons regard these words as synonymous, but careful writers keep in view the difference.

*Examples*:—He is very sociable. Bees are *social*.

**Socker** is university *slang* for association football.

**Son** (male child).

**Sun** (heavenly body that gives light and warmth to the earth).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Solitary, Lonely.**

*Solitary* means a mere absence of society or companions, but *lonely* means forsaken or isolated. A *solitary* person does not feel the want of associates or society, but a *lonely* person feels it.

**Solitary alone** *for* **Solitary** *or* **Alone.**

*Solitary* embraces the sense of *alone* and therefore the use of alone with solitary is superfluous.

**Some** *for* **Any.**

*Any* is used in interrogative, imperative, and negative sentences as, Give me *any* knife that you like best. (Imperative). I have not seen *any* man like you. (Negative). Did you like *any* of the books that I showed you? (Interrogative). *Some* is used in affirmative sentences; as, *Some* men like brandy, but others, whisky. (Affirmative).

**Somebody, They, Them.**

*Somebody* is singular and must have singular words refering to it, and not *they* and *them* which are plurals.

**Somebody's else, Anybody's else, Nobody's else.**

They are replaced by *somebody else's, anybody else's, and nobody else's.*

**Sometime** *or* **Sometimes.**

*Sometime* means formerly or at sometime in the future; as, Dr. W. W. Skeat, *sometime* professor of Anglo-Saxon in the University of Cambridge. He will do it *sometime* or other. *Sometimes* means at times; as, He *sometimes* dines with me.

**Somewhat** *or* **Some.**

The former is an adverb and therefore cannot govern a noun; as, *Somewhat* difficulty. (*Incorrect*). Some is an adjective and can modify a noun; as, *Some difficulty.* (*Correct*).

**Soot** has no plural; as, There is much soot in the chimney. (*See* sheep).

**Sophomore** is an *Americanism* for a student of the second year at an American university, but it is *archaic* in the sense of a second year student at Cambridge.

**Sooth** (n) is *obsolete* for truth, reality.

**Soothfast** is *obsolete* in the sense of truthful or honest.

**Sorrow, Regret, Grief, Penitence Repentance.**

*Sorrow* means mental pain caused by misfortune or loss; as, The people's *sorrow* at her death was unusual. *Regret* means sorrow for what remains as undone or what has been done; as, He feels *regret* for his misconduct. *Grief* means deep sorrow; as, My brother's death caused me much *grief*. *Penitence* means sorrow felt for sins, etc., as, Everybody approves of his *penitence*. *Repentance* means sorrow for sins committed and intention to turn to righteousness; as, *Repentance* is never too late.

**Sot** (a drunkard).

**Sought** (searched for).

They resemble in sound, but differ in meaning.

**Spacious, Specious.**

*Spacious* means having ample space, roomy; as, This house is *spacious*. *Specious* means fair-seeming on the surface but deceptive and wanting in genuineness, plausible; as, *Specious* appearance, excuse, or argument.

**Speak, Tell, Talk,** *or* **Say.**

*Speak* means to exercise the faculty of speech; as, He *spoke* to me about that matter. *Tell* means to relate either orally or otherwise or make a communication; as, *Tell* me a story or tale. *Talk* means to converse or carry on a conversation; as, We talked for hours. *Say* means to utter or make

a declaration; as, They say that there is no truth in your statement. He speaks or talks French or English. (*Correct*). He tells or says French or English. (*Incorrect*).

**Specs** is *colloquial* for spectacles.

**Speed up** *or* **Accelerate.**

*Speed up* means cause to go or move at a greater speed. *Accelerate* is to make quicker. Use *accelerate* instead of *speed up* which is *colloquial.*

**Species** or **Kind.**

Prefer kind which is of Anglo-Saxon origin to species which is derived from Latin.

**Spiritual, Spirituous.**

*Spiritual* means of or relating to spirit or soul; as, He is respected for his spiritual qualities. Spirituous means having a large quantity of alcohol; as, spirituous liquor.

**Spoils** is an *Americanism* for profits for services to a political party.

**Spoilsman** is an *Americanism* for a person who works for a political party for profit.

**Spoonfuls, Spoons full; Armfuls, Arms full; Handfuls, Hands full; Cupfuls, Cups full; Shovelfuls, Shovels full.**

*Spoonfuls, Armfuls, Handfuls, Cupfuls,* or *Shovelfuls* is one word and means one spoon, *arm, hand, cup,* or *shovel* filled again and again, but *Spoons full, arms full, hands full, cups full,* or

*Shovels full* are two words and mean separate *spoons, arms, hands, cups,* or *shovels* filled.

**Square.** See incomparable adjectives.

**Staid** (dignified and serious in conduct).

**Stayed** (remained).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Stake** (a heavy pointed stick or a wager).

**Steak** (a piece of meat or fish for grilling).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Stamina.** It is the plural of stamen and it now means staying power or the power of endurance. It is now commonly used as singular.

**Standpoint, Viewpoint, Point of view.**

*Point of view* is a normal English phrase but *standpoint* is taking its place. *Viewpoint* should be avoided. Though *standpoint* is a correct equivalent of *point of view* yet preference should be given to the *point of view.*

**Staple** *instead of* **Standard.**

*Staple* means important or principal article of commerce. *Standard* means of recognized merit or excellence; as, The *staple* works on Indian history are not available in England. Here *staple* is used instead of *standard* and therefore it is *incorrect.* The *standard* works on Indian history are not available in England. (*Correct*). Cotton is the

*staple* (not the standard) industry of the U. S. A.

**Stationary** (fixed, not moving).

**Stationery** (writing materials).

They resemble in sound, but differ in meaning.

**Statuary, Statutory.**

*Statuary* means concerned with, relating to, fit for a statue; relating to the art of making statues; as, Statuary marble, statuary vein. *Statutory* means relating to, having the form of, resting on, created by an act of Parliament; as, *Statutory* declaration or powers.

**Statue, Statute.**

*Statue* means a sculptured figure of a person or animal; as, This is a statue of Newton. *Statute* means an act of Parliament; as, The Government of India Act.

**Stay, Stop, Reside, Live.**

*Stay* means not to reside or live permanently in a place; as, I *stayed* at Cecil Hotel for three weeks. *Stop* means hal· or opposite to start; as, I *stopped* at Lahore for two hours on my way to Calcutta. *Reside* is a synonym for *live*. In conversation and writing as far as possible prefer the word *live* to *reside*.

**Steal, Rob.**

*Steal* means to take away secretly what belongs to another; as, He has *stolen* my purse. A thief

always *steals.* *Rob* means to take away violently or forcibly what belongs to another; as, You and he robbed me of all my valuables. Robbers always *rob* persons of their money.

**Stellar** *or* **Starry.**

*Starry* is preferable to stellar.

**Step** *or* **Come, Go.**

Prefer *come* or *go.*

**Stile** (a step or set of steps on each side of a fence).

**Style** (manner of writing).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Stomach** *or* **Belly.** Prefer *Belly.*

**Stone.** When it means 14 pounds, it remains in the plural as *stone*; as, I weigh 14 *stone.*

**Stop** *or* **Cease.**

*Stop* is preferable to *cease.*

**Stop at a Hotel** *for* **Live** *or* **Stay at a Hotel.**
Prefer *live* or *stay at a hotel* to *stop at a hotel.*

**Story** is *obsolete* in the sense of history.

**Straight** (not curved).

**Strait** (narrow).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Straight** *or* **Straightly.**

*Straight* means direct or without curve or bend. *Straightly* is *obsolete* and *poetic.*

**Straitened Circumstance** *or* **Straitened Circumstances.**

The former is *unidiomatic* and the latter, *idiomatic.*

**Strata.**

It is the plural of *stratum* and therefore must take a plural verb.

**Strike, Lock-out.**

*Strike* means *cessation of* work by workmen to get their grievances redressed. *Lock-out* means the temporary discharge of workmen by employers to bring them to terms.

**Structure, Building.**

Building is preferable when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Student, Scholar, Pupil.**

*Scholar* means a learned man. *Pupil* means one studying in a school or under a private tutor. *Student* means one studying in a college or university.

**Stylo** (*colloquial*). Stylograph (*literary*).

**Suborn** *or* **Bribe.** Bribe is preferable.

**Such another** *or* **Another such.**

The former is *unidiomatic* and the latter, *idiomatic*; as, Such another example is not available. (*Incorrect*). Another such example is not available. (*Correct*).

**Such** *instead of* **so.**

It is *unidiomatic* to use *such* in the sense of *so*; as, We have never seen *such* a big house.

(*Incorrect*). We have never seen *so* big a house. (*Correct*). I have never seen *such* an honest man as my brother, Mr. William. (*Incorrect*). I have never seen *so* honest a man as my brother, Mr. William. (*Correct*).

**Such like.**

*Such like* is a redundant expression and should be avoided.

**Sufficient** (*See* incomparable adjectives).

**Superior than** *or* **Superior to.**

It takes the preposition *to* and not the conjunction *than.*

**Surety** is *obsolete* in the sense of certainty or sureness.

**Survive** *or* **Outlive**. *Outlive* is preferable.

**Suspense, Suspension, Abeyance.**

*Suspense* in the sense of suspension is *obsolete* and now means anxious uncertainty about the result of some action or event; as, I do not wish to keep you in suspense. *Suspension* means suspending, state of being suspended; as, the suspension of business or proceeding. *Abeyance* means temporary disuse or suspension; as, This law has been in abeyance for two years.

**Sustain** *or* **Suffer**. *Suffer* is preferable.

**Swell** is *colloquial* for a person of distinction, ability, good society, or eminence.

**Swim, Sail, Float.**

Men and animals *swim*. A ship either *sails* or *floats*.

**Swine** (*See* sheep).

**Sympathy, Pity.**

*Sympathy* means fellow-feeling and it is between equals. *Pity* means feeling of tenderness aroused by grief or trouble of another who is usually an inferior.

**Sympathy, Compassion, Fellow-feeling.**

Prefer *fellow-feeling* to *sympathy* or *compassion*.

**Take, Bring, Fetch.**

*Bring* means to cause to come with a person or thing; as, *Bring* me five books from the library. *Take* means to carry or remove a thing, etc. from a place; as, *Take* this parcel to the post-office. *Fetch* means go and bring back; as, *Fetch* twenty apples for me.

**Take *for* Cost.**

*Take* should not be used in the sense of *cost*. It *takes* me twenty rupees to buy that book. (*Incorrect*). It *costs* me twenty rupees to buy that book. (*Correct*).

**Take, Receive.**

*Take* means to seize, grasp, lay hold of; as, He took five books from the public library. *Receive* means accept; as, He received five pounds from his brother.

**Take your leave** *or* **Take leave of you.**

I take your leave, (*Unidiomatic*).

I take leave of you. (*Idiomatic*).

**Talented.**

Though there is no verb of which *talented* is the past participle, yet usage has sanctioned it; as, He is a talented person.

**Tail** (appendage to an animal's body).

**Tale** (narrative).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Tanner** is *slang* for sixpence.

**Tart** is *slang* in the sense of a girl or woman usually of an objectionable character.

**Tarry** is *poetic* and *obsolete* for remain. Avoid it in prose.

**Taught** (instructed).

**Taut** (tight).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Tax, Duty, Custom, Octroi, Toll, Rate.**

*Tax* means a contribution to the state revenue; as, Income Tax. *Duty* means a payment made to the Government on imports, exports; manufactures, or sale of articles; as, Duty on sugar is heavy. *Custom* means an amount payable on exports or imports to the government; as, You have to pay custom on brandy. *Octroi* means a duty payable

to municipal committee or corporation on goods entering its precincts; as, You have to pay octroi on piece-goods. *Toll* means a payment made for the use of a road, bridge, market, etc; as, You have to pay a toll for crossing this bridge. *Rate* means an assessment for local purposes; as, Water rates are very heavy in our neighbourhood.

**Teach, Learn.**

*Teach* means to give a lesson or knowledge. *Learn* means to receive knowledge, or instruction.

**Team** (set of players).

**Teem** (to be fruitful).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Tear and Wear** *or* **Wear and Tear.**

The former is *unidiomatic* and the latter is *idiomatic.*

**Teal.** (*See* sheep).

**Teem** is *obsolete* in the sense of *produce children.*

**Teethache** *or* **Toothache.**

The former is *incorrect* and the latter, *correct.*

**Temporary, Temporal, Provisional.**

*Temporary* means lasting for a time only as, This post is temporary. *Temporal* in the sense of temporary is *obsolete* and means secular, earthly, lay, opposed to spiritual, not eternal; as, The lords temporal. *Provisional* means for the time being or

subject to revision; as, He has made provisional arrangements.

**Tempt** is *obsolete* in the sense of put to the test.

**Tend, Attend.**

*Tend* means to incline, conduce, to be moving towards, or serve; as, I *tended* him during his illness. He is *tending* towards slavery. He is *tending* towards the river bank. *Attend* means to accompany a person for serving him, to be present at, to wait upon, or to turn the mind to; as, I *attended* him during his voyage to England. He did not *attend* to what I said. I *attend* lectures on law.

**Tenner** is *colloquial* for a ten pound note.

**Termini** is the plural of *terminus* and therefore requires a plural verb.

**Terrestrial** *or* **Earthly**. Prefer *earthly*.

**Thames, Danube, etc.**

They are rivers and all rivers take the definite article before them; as, The *Thames*, The *Danube*. (*See* articles).

**Than.**

*Than* is a subordinative conjunction and follows comparatives with the exception of superior, interior, posterior, senior, junior, inferior, and prior which take the preposition *to*.

**Than** *and* **As**.

They are preceded and followed by the same

case; as, He is taller *than* I am. He is *as* tall as I am.

**That** is *colloquial* in the sense of certain extent or degree; as, He cannot walk *that* far. (*Colloquial*). He cannot walk to such an extent. (*Literary*).

**The Massacre of the innocents.** It is partly *slang* and is equal to those measures which for want of time are dropped at the end of a session.

**The father and son** *or* **The father and the son.**

*The father and son* being two different persons, the definite article should be repeated before *son*. (*See* articles).

**The first and second class** *for* **The first and second classes** *or* **The first and the second class.**

Idiom requires that the expression should be either *the first and the second class* or *the first and second classes. See* articles.

**The fourth and fifth chapter** *or* **The fourth and the fifth chapter.**

The former is *incorrect* but the latter is *correct*. Two chapters are meant and not one and therefore the correct form is either *the fourth and the fifth chapter* or *the fourth and fifth chapters*.

**The water of a place** *for* **Climate.**

The former in the sense of *climate* is *incorrect*; as, The *water of London* does not suit me. The *climate* of London does not suit me. (*Correct*).

**The universal desire of everybody** *for* **The universal desire** *or* **The desire of everybody.**

The *Universal desire of everybody* is an *incorrect* expression because everybody is included in the sense of universal. The universal desire or the desire of everybody is a correct expression.

**The whole facts** *or* **The whole of the facts.**

Idiom requires that *whole* should not precede a plural noun because the word whole expresses a collective idea. Therefore the correct form is *the whole of* the facts or all the facts. The whole facts is an *incorrect* expression.

**Their** (of or belonging to them).

**There** (that place).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Thereat** is *obsolete* for after that.

**Therefor** is *obsolete* and is replaced by *for that.*

**Therefrom** is *obsolete* and is replaced by *from that* or *it.*

**Therein** is *obsolete* and is replaced by *in that place or respect.*

**Thereinto** is *obsolete* and is replaced by *into that place.*

**Thereof** is *obsolete* and is replaced by *of that.*

**Thereon** is *obsolete* and is replaced by *on that or it.*

**Thereout** is *obsolete* and is replaced by *out of that or from that source.*

**Therethrough** is *obsolete* and is replaced by *through it* or *that.*

**Thereto** is *obsolete* and is replaced by *to that.*

**The two first** *or* **The first two.**

It should be *the first two.*

**The two last** *or* **The last two.**

The two last is *unidiomatic* and the *last two* is *idiomatic.*

**Thereunto** is *obsolete* for unto that.

**Thereupon** is *obsolete* for upon that.

**Therewith** is *obsolete* for with that.

**These sort** *for* **This sort** *or* **These sorts.**

*These* is plural and *sort* is singular and therefore it cannot modify the noun *sort.* It should be either *this sort* or *these sorts.*

**The same word as subject and object.**

It is contrary to standard usage to have *the same word* as both *subject* and *object*; as, What I have said is false, I will not retract. (*Incorrect*). What I have said is false, I will not retract it. (*Correct*).

**These** *or* **Those kind** *for* **This** *or* **That kind.**

*Kind* is singular and cannot be modified by *these or those* which is plural. The required expression is either *this or that kind.*

**Timid, Cowardly, Craven.**

*Timid* means easily frightened, wanting in boldness or courage; as, He is a timid boy. *Cowardly* means befitting a coward; as, Cowardly conduct.

*Craven* means faint-hearted; as, He is craven.

**Transpire** *for* **Happen.**

*Transpire* in the sense of *happen* is wrong. Transpire means to become known but *happen* means to occur; as, What occurred did not transpire. Much has happened since I met you.

**Trifling, Trivial.**

*Trifling* means slight or of small account; as, Trifling remarks. *Trivial* means negligible, not severe; as, Trivial injuries.

**Try** *or* **Endeavour.** *Try* is preferable.

**Throw** *or* **Cast.** Prefer the former.

**Them who** *or* **Those who.**

*Them who* is *unidiomatic* but *those who* is *idiomatic*; as, I daily see them who play cricket. (*Unidiomatic*). I daily see those who play cricket. (*Idiomatic*).

**They said the truth** *for* **They spoke the truth.**

*Said* is not equivalent to *spoke.* The idiom requires the word *spoke.*

**They who** *or* **Those who.**

*They who* is *unidiomatic* but *those who* is *idiomatic*. *e.g.*, They who called on me yesterday are my best friends. (*Unidiomatic*). Those who called on me yesterday are my best friends. (*Idiomatic.*)

**This day evening, This day night, Today morning, Today noon.**

They are all *incorrect. This evening this night, this morning, this noon,* which are *correct* should be used.

**Though...but** or **Though...yet.**

*Though* is followed by *yet* and not by *but*; as, Though I am poor but I am willing to help you. (*Unidiomatic*). Though I am poor yet I am willing to help you. (*Idiomatic*).

**Thought to** *or* **Thought of.**

It is *incorrect* to use an infinitive with it; as, You have no *thought to* injure him. (*Unidiomatic*). You have no *thought of* injuring him. (*Idiomatic*).

**Threw** (past tense of throw).

**Through** (from end to end).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Throughly** is *obsolete* for entirely or completely.

**Tile** is *colloquial* for a silk hat.

**Till, Before, When.**

*Till* (not *before* or *when*) should be used in the following sentences:

Wait till I come. (*Correct*). Wait when or before I come. (*Incorrect*).

**Timid** *or* **Fearful.** Prefer *fearful.*

**Top** (*See* incomparable adjectives).

**Tin** is *slang* in the sense of cash.

**Tip** is *slang* when it is equal to strike lightly, to give information about, or to give gratuity to an inferior.

**Tipsy** *or* **Drunk.** Prefer *drunk*.

**Tire** is *obsolete* for a covering worn on the head.

**To fully answer** *or* **To answer fully.**

As a rule avoid the insertion of an adverb between *to* and the verb; as, I wish to *quickly* go instead of I wish to go *quickly.* I wish to fully answer your questions instead of I wish to *answer your questions fully.*

**To the manor born** *or* **To the manner born.**

The former is *incorrect* and the latter, *correct* *To the manner born* means subjected to custom by reason of birth or suitable for position; as, He is *to the manner born.* (*Correct*). He is to the manor born. (*Incorrect*).

**Ton** (20 cwt).

**Tun** (wine cask).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Top** *or* **Apex.** Prefer top.

**Too** (also, more than enough).

**Two** (twice one).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Too anxious** *for* **Very anxious.**

It is *incorrect* to use *too anxious* because *too* means more than enough and very means in a high degree. Prefer *very anxious.*

**Too** *for* **Too much.**

*Too* like very cannot be used with past participles but *too much* is the proper expression to

be used with past participles; as, He is *too much* tired. (*Idiomatic*). He is too tired. (*Unidiomatic*).

**Tot, Kiddy, Kid.**

*Tot* means a small child, but *kid* and *kiddy* mean a child. They are *slang*.

**To talk through one's hat** is *slang* for to brag or boast.

**Tough** is American *slang* for a lawless person.

**Touching** is *obsolete* in the sense of about.

**To turn over a new page** *for* **To turn over a new leaf.**

Idiom requires that the expression should be *to turn over a new leaf.*

**To win** *or* **In winning.**

The former is *unidiomatic* and the latter is *idiomatic.*

He tried his best *to win* the prize. (*Unidiomatic*). He tried his best *in winning* the prize. (*Idiomatic*).

**Transfer, Convert.**

*Transfer* means to make over to but *convert* means to change; as, He *transferred* property to his creditors. He *converted* silver into gold.

**Trap** is *slang* when it is equal to a policeman.

**Trout.** (*See* sheep).

**Trow** is *obsolete* for to be of opinion.

**True to his words** *or* **True to his word.**

The former is *unidiomatic* and the latter, *idiomatic.*

**True penny** is *obsolete* for an honest man.

**Turn down.**

*Turn down* is *slang* in the sense of reject and therefore it should be avoided; as, The resolution was *turned down.* (*Incorrect*). The resolution was rejected. (*Correct*). Some authorities on English have ceased to regard it as *slang.*

**Trust, Hope.**

*Trust* means believe in. *Hope* means expect and desire. According to the standard English dictionaries *hope* refers to future and *trust*, to the present time.

*Examples*:—I *hope* that you will come soon. I *trust* that you are in good health.

**Trundle** is *slang* in the sense of to bowl at cricket.

**Truss** is *obsolete* in the sense of fastening or tightening garments, etc.

**Tumult, Riot, Disorder, Insurrection, Mutiny, Revolt, Sedition, Rebellion, Rising, and Revolution.**

*Tumult, riot,* and *disorder* signify incidental and temporary outbreaks of lawlessness. *Tumult* means an angry demonstration of a mob; as, Is it possible to account for this *tumult. Riot* means a disturbance of the peace by a crowd; as, Every sensible person condemns riots. *Disorder* means

civil or political unrest; as, There is no disorder in this country. *Insurrection* means organized and active opposition to established authority; as, Slaves make insurrection. *Mutiny* means opposition by soldiers or sailors to their superior; as, The Indian mutiny 1857. *Revolt* means active, concerted opposition to lawful authority; as, Subject provinces rise in revolt. *Sedition* means any act, writing, speech or some other act against the established government; as, It is the duty of every government to suppress sedition. *Rebellion* means organized armed opposition to the established government; as, The Great Rebellion. *Rising* means organized rebellion; as, There has been no rising in this country for centuries. *Revolution* means the complete overthrow of established government and the establishment of the new form of government; as, The French Revolution.

**Try and come** *for* **Try to come.**

The former is *unidiomatic* and the latter is *idiomatic.*

**Try an experiment** *for* **Make an experiment.**

The former is *unidiomatic* and the latter, *idiomatic.*

**Two and two is four** *or* **Two and two are four.**

The former is *wrong* and the letter, *right.*

**Twins, Twins.**

Two children born at a birth are *twins. Twin*

means one of two children born at a birth. The former is a plural and the latter, a singular.

**Two, Couple.**

*Couple* means neither severally nor merely *two* but *two* means closely united; as, A good old couple. He has a couple of shillings in the bank. (*Incorrect*). He has two shillings in the bank. (*Correct*).

**Type, Emblem,** *or* **Symbol.**

*Type* means person, thing, or event serving as a model, pattern, or specimen. *Type* also means an image which represents another thing; as, Water indicates instability. *Emblem* means anything indirectly indicative of something else; as, A badge, flag, portrait, etc. *Symbol* means something representing some other thing except a portrait or picture; as, The cross; a mathematical sign or notation.

**Typo** is *colloquial* for a printer.

**Ugly, Awkward, Clumsy.**

*Ugly* means unpleasant to the sight; as, He has an ugly face. *Awkward* means ungraceful; as, He is an awkward person. You are awkward (ungraceful) in your movements. *Clumsy* means wanting in grace or dextarity of movements; as, He is clumsy in his movements.

**Unanimous** (*See* incomparable adjectives).

**Unbounded** (*See* incomparable adjectives).

**Unblemished, Blameless, Stainless.**

*Unblemished* means spotless or free from blemish; as, A man of unblemished character or reputation; *Blameless* means innocent or free from blame. *Stainless* means spotless or free from stain; as, He is a man of stainless reputation. Unblemished and stainless are interchangeable.

**Under the circumstances.**

According to some writers *under the circumstances* is wrong because under means beneath. Under the circumstances, apart from being grammatically correct, is regarded as idiomatic by the standard writers of English. Those who condemn the use of *under the circumstances* are of opinion that *in the circumstances* is correct, but the weight of authority is against this view.

**Undies** is *colloquial* for a child's or woman's underwear.

**Undoubtable** *or* **Indubitable.** Prefer *Indubitable.*

**Unique.** (*See* incomparable adjectives).

**Unique, Sole.**

*Unique* is an adjective which cannot be compared and which means only one of its kind. *Very unique* is incorrect but some writers use *quite unique.* *Sole* means exclusive; as, He is the sole proprietor of a number of houses, shops, and villages.

**Universal.** (*See* incomparable adjectives.)

**Universal, General, Common.**

*Universal* means applicable to all the cases and *general* means including a greater number or part of a thing. *Common* is opposed to rare and *general* is opposed to special.

**Unless, Until.**

Either use *unless* or *until* but never use *unless and until. Unless* means if not; as, *Unless* you engage a teacher, you will not pass the examination. *Until* means time continued right upto a definite time; as, He will not come *until* I go.

**Up *and* Down.**

*Up* means reckoning backwards; as, Statesmen from George Llyod *up* to William Pitt have acted wisely. Down means forwards; as, Statesmen from William Pitt *down to* Llyod George have acted wisely.

**Up train, Down train.**

In Great Britain *up train* is that which runs towards a big city as London, etc., but the *down train* is that which runs from a big city as London.

**Upward of.** (*American*). **Upwards of.** (*English*).

**Urge, Excite, Incite.**

*Urge* means to produce strong excitation towards some act; as, One is always urged from without. *Excite* means to arouse a person from a torpid state or unconcern to action; as, His speech is bound to excite the members of the labour party.

Incite means to goad one to action; as, You should not incite people to set fire to buildings.

**U. S. A.**

*U. S. A.* must have the definite article before it. Therefore the expression *U. S. A.* without *the* is incorrect. *See* Articles.

**Us going** *or* **Our going.**

*Us going* is wrong because *us* is in the objective case and cannot precede a gerund according to standard usage, but it must be preceded by a possessive case; as, *Our going* to Cambridge will not make any difference to you.

**Use to** *or* **Used to.**

*Use* is no longer employed in the sense of to be accustomed or habituated except in the past tense; as, He used to take a walk daily. Therefore use to is *incorrect.*

**Utter.**

*Utter* in the sense of total or complete is used in an unfavourable sense; as, He has been an *utter* failure. (*Correct*). He has been an *utter* success. (*Incorrect*).

**Valiant** *or* **Brave.**

*Brave* is preferable to *valiant* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Vacant** *or* **Empty.**

*Empty* is preferable to *vacant* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Vain, Proud.**

*Proud* means thinking too much of oneself, haughty. *Vain* means conceited, eager for praise or admiration. In a word *proud* refers to what one thinks of oneself, but *vain* refers to what one wishes that others should think of one.

**Vain** (conceited).

**Vane** (weathercock).

**Vein** (blood-vessel).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Vale** (valley).

**Veil** (covering for the face).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Value** *or* **Worth.**

Prefer *worth* which comes from Anglo-Saxon to *value* which is of Latin origin.

**Vamp** is *colloquial* for *vampire* which means a woman who charms men for extracting money from them.

**Velocity** *or* **Swiftness.**

Prefer *swiftness* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Vellum, Parchment.**

*Vellum* means the skin of calves, kids, or lambs dressed and prepared for writing on. *Parchment* means

the skin of sheep or goats dressed and prepared for writing on.

**Venal, Venial.**

*Venial* means excusable; as, A *venial* error. *Venal* means mercenary; as, A *venal* judge.

**Veracity, Truth.**

*Veracity* means disposition to speak the truth. *Truth* means reality not falsehood, quality or state of being real or free from falsehood. It refers to persons and facts. *Veracity* refers to persons and their statements. According to some authorities on English *truth* belongs to the thing and *veractiy* to the person; as, The *truth* of the statements depends upon the *veracity* of their narrator.

**Verbal, Oral.**

*Verbal* means of, relating to, or concerned with words, either spoken, written, or both; as, *Verbal* critcism, *verbal* mistakes, *verbal* changes, *verbal* differences, *verbal* accuracy, *verbal* distinctions, *verbal* subtleties. *Verbal* also means spoken, oral, or not written, and in this sense many writers use it in the following expressions:— a *verbal* contract, *verbal* agreement, *verbal* message, *verbal* communication, *verbal* evidence.

*Oral* means consisting of spoken, not written, words; as, Oral traditions, oral examination, oral evidence.

**Verily** is *obsolete* for indeed or truly.

**Vermin**. It is a collective noun and has no plural form.

**Very, Much.**

Though *very* modifies present participles and *much*, past participles, yet *very* modifies past participles when they are used as adjectives; as, He is *very* surprised. (*Unidiomatic*). He is *much* surprised. (*Idiomatic*). He wore a *very* wearied look. (*Idiomatic*). Here *wearied* is used as an adjective and therefore *very* is rightly used.

**Very honest** *for* **Too honest.**

*Very* should not be used in the sense of *too* and whenever it is so used, it is always incorrect; as, The judges of India are *too honest* to take bribery. (*Correct*). The judges of India are *very honest* to take bribery. (*Incorrect*).

**Vessel** *or* **Ship**. Prefer *ship.*

**Vicinity** *or* **Neighbourhood.**

Prefer *neighbourhood* which comes from Anglo-Saxon to *vicinity* which is derived from Latin.

**Vital, Living**. Prefer *living* when the former and the latter convey the same sense.

**Vivacious,** *or* **Lively.**

Prefer *lively* which comes from Anglo-Saxon to *vivacious* which is derived from Latin.

**Vocation** *or* **Calling.**

Prefer *calling* which comes from Anglo-Saxon to *vocation* which is of Latin origin.

**Vulgar, Low, Slang.**

*Vulgar* means offending against good taste and refined sentiment; as, A vulgar expression or taste. *Low* means coarse and below the accepted standard; as, A low or obscene expression. *Slang* indicates of, belonging to, or expressed in words and phrases not recognized by standard English.

**Wain** (waggon).

**Wane** (to decline).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Waist** (the middle).

**Waste** (to squander).

The are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Wait** (to stay).

**Weight** (heaviness).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Waive** (relinquish).

**Wave** (to show motions like those of a flag in the wind).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Wake, Awake.**

*Wake and awake* mean to cease to sleep or to rouse from sleep. These two words are interchangeable. The only difference between them is that

*wake* is mostly followed by *up* but *awake* is not; as, I woke up early. I awoke early.

**Want, Desire, Need, Wish.**

*Want* refers to what may be merely lacking or what may be lacking and necessary; as, One *wants* a new towel. *Need* refers to what is lacking and necessary; as, One *needs* a towel. *Desire* (L) refers to an object which is near at hand, or near in thought, and it refers to the higher things, or to those which are coveted; as, I *desire* wealth and fame. *Wish* (A. S.) refers to that which may be remote, uncertain, or not attainable; as, He *wishes* to succeed in the examination. He *wishes* you to do this expresses a milder command than he *desires* you to do this.

**Want to see** *or* **wish to see**

The former is *unidiomatic* and the latter is *idiomatic*; as, He *wishes to see* me.

**Ware** is *poetic* for aware.

**Was comprised of** *for* **Comprised.**

*Was comprised of* is incorrect and *comprised* is correct; as, That house *comprised* 2 kitchens, 2 halls, I dining-room, 2 sitting-rooms, and I bathroom.

**Was failed** *or* **Failed.**

*Failed* is the past tense of the verb *fail* which is an intransitive verb and which can never be used in the passive voice and therefore *failed* should be used instead of *was failed.*

**Washwoman, Washerwoman, Laundress.**

*Washerwoman* and *Laundress* are commonly used in the British Empire but *washwoman* is confined to the U. S. A.

**Weak** (feeble).

**Week** (seven days).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**Weather** (state of the air).

**Wether** (a castrated ram).

**Whether** (which of two).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings.

**We're** (*colloquial*).

**We are** (*literary*).

**Wet** is an *Americanism* for permitting the manufacture and sale of alcoholic liquor.

**Whatso** is *obsolete* and is replaced by *whatever.*

**What to speak of** *for* **Not to speak of.**

*What to speak of* the changes that have taken place. (*Unidiomatic*). *Not to speak of* the changes that have taken place. (*Idiomatic*).

**Whenso** *or* **Whenever.**

The former is replaced by the latter.

**Whence** is *literary* and not *colloquial.* It is now replaced in *colloquial* use by *where from.*

**Where (a relative or an interrogative adverb).**

*Where* are you going ? *Where* asks a question

and therefore it is an interrogative adverb. I do not know the place *where* he lives. Here *where* is a relative adverb because apart from joining the principal clause with the subordinate clause, it also modifies the former.

**Where to.** Do not end a sentence with *to* or *at* when it begins with *where*; as, Where have they gone *to*. (*Unidiomatic*). Where have they gone. (*Idiomatic*). Where were they *at*. (*Unidiomatic*). Where were they. (*Idiomatic*).

**Whereabout** *or* **About, Concerning.**

Prefer *about* or *concerning*.

**Whereabouts** is singular and should take a singular verb.

**Whereas** is *obsolete* and is replaced by *since*.

*Note*:—It is still used in legal documents.

**Wherefore** is *obsolete* and is replaced by *for which reason*.

**Whereof** is *obsolete* and is replaced by *of which*.

**Whether** *or* **No** *for* **Whether** *or* **Not.**

Though *whether or no* is commoner than *whether or not* yet *whether or not* is preferable; as, I do not know whether he will come or no. (*Unidiomatic*). I do not know whether he will come or not. (*Idiomatic*).

**Whether** *or* **That** *after* **Doubt.**

*Whether* means an alternative and *that* does not mean an alternative for which reason *that* cannot be used instead of *whether* after doubt; as, Your conduct makes me *doubt whether* you have acted wisely. (*Correct*). Your conduct makes me *doubt that* you have acted wisely. (*Incorrect*). I do not *doubt whether* he is honest. (*Incorrect*). I do not *doubt* that he is honest. (*Correct*). Who can *doubt*

*whether* he is impartial? (*Incorrect*). Who can *doubt* that he is impartial? (*Correct*).

**Which** is *obsolete* when it has a person as its antecedent; as, (And) *Judas* also, *which* betrayed him, knew the place. Use *who* instead of *which*.

**Which** *for* **As.**

*As* follows *as* or *such* and *which* does not.

*Examples* :—*As* he is a barrister *which* I should like to be. (*Incorrect*). *As* he is a barrister *as* I should like to be. (*Correct*). *Such* things *which* are for sale are not good. (*Incorrect*). *Such* things *as* are for sale are not good. (*Correct*).

**Whither** is *literary* and *obsolete*. It is replaced by *to what place* or *point*.

**Who, Which.**

*Who* refers to persons, but *which* refers to things; as, I know Mr. Jackson *who* is a leading lawyer in London. A house *which* stands on a rock is lasting. *Which* in a selective sence may refer to persons; as, *Which* of you is right?

**Who** should immediately follow its antecedent; as, I asked him *who* was there.

**Whole** is *obsolete* in the sense of being free from disease.

**Whole lot** *for* **All** *or* **Whole.**

*Whole lot* is *unidiomatic* but *all* or *whole* is *idiomatic*.

**Whose, Of which.**

According to English idiom *whose* cannot take as its antecedent a noun or pronoun of the neuter gender. This is the room *whose* roof fell down three days ago. Room being a neuter gender, *whose* is not the right word to refer to it, and therefore the proper form is *of which*, which can have as its antecedent a neuter noun or pronoun;

as, This is the room, the roof *of which* fell down three days ago. *Whose* is the possessive of *who* but *of which* is the possessive of *which*.

*Note*:—When *of which* appears clumsy *whose* is permissible; as, Spires whose (not *of which*) silent finger points to heaven.

**Wide-awake** is *colloquial* in the sense of knowing or alert.

**Widower, Bachelor, Celibate, Divorcee.**

*Widower* is a man whose wife is dead and is not married again. *Bachelor* means an unmarried man. *Celibate* means one who is bound or resolved not to marry. *Divorcee* means a divorced man or woman.

**Will** *See* shall.

**Willing, Wilful.**

*Willing* is *obsolete* in the sense of wilful and means cheerfully ready, not reluctant; as, He is a willing worker. *Wilful* means deliberate, obstinate; as, It is your wilful act.

**Witness, See, Look.**

*Witness* means to be present as an eye witness of; as, I have not witnessed the incident. *See* means to perceive with the eyes; as, We see many things about which we know very little. *Look* means to make a conscious and direct endeavour to see; as, You may look at the sky for two hours.

**With a view to.**

It is not followed by an infinitive but by a gerund; as, I paid him ten pounds *with a view to* helping him. *(Idiomatic)*. I paid him ten pounds *with a view to help him*. (*Unidiomatic*).

**With the view of.**

It is followed by a gerund and never by an infinitive; as, He went to London *with the view of* seeing the zoological gardens.

**Withal** is *obsolete* and is replaced by *moreover.*

**Without, Unless.**

*Without* is not used in the English of today as conjunction but *unless* is used as conjunction; as, He cannot leave for London *unless* I permit him or he cannot leave for London *without* being permitted by me. Both are *correct.* He cannot leave for London without I permit him. (*Incorrect*).

**Woman** *or* **Lady.**

*Woman* is the feminine of man but *lady* is the feminine of lord or gentleman. In a word all *ladies* are *women*, but all women are not *ladies.*

**Womanish. Womanly, Girlish, Effeminate.**

*Womanish* means effeminate or wanting in manliness and is used in a disparaging sense. *Womanly* means having the good qualities of a woman. *Girlish* means befitting a girl, but it implies unmanly or effeminate when applied to a boy. *Effeminate* means befitting a woman but it signifies unmanly when applied to a man.

**Wooden.** *(See* incomparable adjectives*).*

**Woolly** *or* **Sweater.** Prefer *sweater.*

**Worse, More.**

*Worse* is the comparative of bad but *more* is

the comparative of much. Therefore the two words are not interchangeable.

**Worse, Worst.**

From bad to worse and from worse to worst are *correct*. But from worst to worst is *incorrect*.

**Worth while** (*American*) **Worth-while**. (*English*).

**Wot** is *obsolete* and is replaced by *know*.

**Won't** (*colloquial*). **Will not** (*literary*).

**Would'nt** (*colloquial*).

**Would not** (*literary*).

**Would.** *See* shall.

**Would better, Would sooner, Would rather** *for* **Had better, Had sooner, Had rather.**

Prefer *Had sooner, had rather*, and *had better.*

**Write to** *or* **Write me a letter.**

*Write* when it is used transitively takes a direct and an indirect object, but when it is used intransitively, it takes no object as, He *wrote to* me about the matter. He wrote me a letter.

**Wrong** *or* **Right** *for* **Right** *or* **Wrong.**

*Wrong or right* is *unidiomatic* but *right or wrong* is *idiomatic.*

**Yesterday.**

He has gone home *yesterday* is *incorrect* because yesterday indicates past time, and therefore the verb in this sentence must be of the past tense; as, He went home *yesterday.*

**Yid** is *American slang* and means a Jew.

**Yoke** (an instrument to connect oxen for work).

**Yolk** (yellow of an egg).

They are words having the same sound, but different meanings

**Yon** is poetic and *obsolete* for *yonder*.

**Zealot, Bigot, Enthusiast, Fanatic.**

*Zealot* means one who is carried away by excessive zeal or enthusiasm for an object or a cause and is commonly used in a bad sense. *Bigot* means one who is obstinately attached to a cause or creed and who is intolerant of others. *Enthusiast* means one who is full of zeal or enthusiasm for an object or a cause and is commonly used in good sense. *Fanatic* means a person filled with mistaken zeal or enthusiasm especially in religion.

**Zoo** is *colloquial* for Zoological gardens especially of London.

Ling